United Nations A/73/119

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018
English
Original: English/French/Spanish

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (u) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Disarmament and non-proliferation education

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/57, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and reviewing possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education. It contains information from Member States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions on the implementation of the 34 recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study (A/57/124).

* A/73/50.

18-10839 (E) 120718 170718

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Implementation of the recommendations by Member States	4
	Cuba	4
	El Salvador	5
	Japan	6
	Madagascar	7
	Mexico	7
III.	Implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations	8
	A. Office for Disarmament Affairs	8
	B. Department of Peacekeeping Operations	10
	C. Department of Public Information	11
	D. United Nations Development Programme	12
	E. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	13
	F. International Atomic Energy Agency	14
	G. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	14
IV.	Implementation of the recommendations by civil society and non-governmental organizations	15
	A. Academic Peace Orchestra Middle East	15
	B. American Academy of Arts and Sciences	15
	C. Amplify	15
	D. California Polytechnic State University Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group	16
	E. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Peace Education	16
	F. European Union Non-Proliferation Consortium	16
	G. Foundation for Peace	17
	H. Future of Life Institute	17
	I. Geneva Centre for Security Policy	17
	J. Getulio Vargas Foundation	17
	K. Global Compliance Research Project	18
	L. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War	18
	M. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies	18
	N. Japanese Communist Party	19
	O. King's College London Centre for Science and Security Studies	19
	P. Mayors for Peace	19
	Q. Mines Action Canada	20

R. New Zealand Disarmament and Security Centre 20
S. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation 20
T. Outrider Foundation 21
U. Pace University 21
V. PAX 21
W. Peace Boat 22
X. Peace Movement Aotearoa 22
Y. PIR Center (Russian Center for Policy Studies) 23
Z. Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies 23
AA. Senzatomica 23
BB. Simons Foundation 24
CC. Soka Gakkai International 24
DD. Texas A&M University Center for Nuclear Security Science and Policy Initiatives 24
EE. Tufts University Institute for Global Leadership 25
FF. Universidad Autónoma de Baja California 25
GG. Verification Research, Training and Information Centre 25
HH. World without War (Mundo sin Guerras y sin Violencia) 26
V. Conclusions 26

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 71/57, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the study (A/57/124) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. Recommendation 32 of the United Nations study encouraged the Secretary-General to prepare a biennial report along the same lines.

2. Recommendation 31 of the study encouraged Member States, inter alia, to inform the Office for Disarmament Affairs of steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the study.

3. The present report contains information compiled by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations by Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations and should be read in conjunction with the 34 recommendations of the study. Pursuant to United Nations guidelines on limiting documentation, the information contained in the present report, as well as additional material, is available at www.un.org/disarmament/education.

4. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 2 February 2018 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any replies received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/) in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

5. In its resolution 71/74, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session a report covering the implementation by the United Nations system of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. The two reports should be read in conjunction.

II. Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[6 April 2018]

Education is a key instrument in the promotion of peace and disarmament. Cuba supports the need to instruct its people, especially the youth, on the principles of peace. Education relating to the objective of disarmament and non-proliferation should be a priority of all States.

Cuba is confronting the negative effects of the culture of violence and a false sense of security in the light of the current dangers in that sphere. Cuba includes in its long-term education and training programmes for children and youth a culture of peace that promotes general and complete disarmament without abandoning the country's defense and in compliance with the relevant international instruments to which we are party.

Nuclear arsenals compromise international peace and security and threaten the future of the human race. Cuba therefore places the highest priority on the objective of nuclear disarmament and consequently has signed and swiftly ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

There is no justification for including the use of this type of weapon in military doctrines. We welcome the fact that the new treaty also prohibits the threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

Cuban society has increased its awareness of matters concerning disarmament, non-proliferation and peacekeeping. The mass media have prepared public service messages on the subject, especially to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September each year.

In addition to their educational work, Cuban educational centres also help to raise awareness among their students of the importance of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation. Specifically, in Cuban military education centres where senior, mid-level and junior officers are trained for technical and leadership positions, a higher standard of military ethics, including humanitarianism, internationalism and respect for peace, is required.

Cuban non-governmental organizations also play an important role in disarmament education. For almost 20 years, the Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos (Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples), in conjunction with the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (Economic Society of Friends of the Nation), have organized national peace education workshops in various national educational institutions. The United Nations Association of Cuba also frequently holds events on this subject.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, was also one of the chief proponents, nationally and internationally, of the struggle against nuclear weapons. In numerous articles and speeches he referred to the implications of the use of such weapons for global stability and the life of the planet.

Cuba believes that education for peace and disarmament is essential in order to guarantee a more secure future for the next generation, a future where military budgets to wage war no longer continue to grow and where scientific and technological advances are able to achieve sustainable development.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

El Salvador recognizes the important role of education in the promotion of a culture of peace, with particular emphasis on protection of and respect for human rights and raising awareness of the grave consequences resulting from the various attacks, conflicts and threats to international peace and security occurring at the global level, mainly the humanitarian impact of the continued existence of weapons of mass destruction, the irresponsible use of firearms and the actions of transnational organized crime and terrorist groups. It is therefore essential to promote peaceful coexistence and guarantee security at the national, regional and global levels through the dissemination of educational materials on disarmament and non-proliferation and prevention of conflict and armed violence.

In the view of El Salvador, conducting campaigns and activities intended to promote education on disarmament, non-proliferation and international security is essential, *inter alia*, through courses, conferences, documentation, films, academic articles, exchange of experience, and inclusion of these topics in educational curricula at both basic and advanced levels, to ensure that the population is well-informed on this subject, the youth in particular, who will benefit from the prevention of conflict and armed violence, with a view to achieving a more peaceful society where

international peace and security are guaranteed as a fundamental aspect of human development.

Thus, in El Salvador there have been various awareness-raising campaigns on security for Salvadoran youth in the schools, with the support of the Ministry of Education and the National Civil Police, mainly aimed at a reduction in armed violence, peaceful resolution of conflicts and preventing participation by youth in criminal groups. Reports have also been drafted on the humanitarian impact of weapons of mass destruction, in particular the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, with the support of international organizations and civil society organizations, to make known the catastrophe such weapons could cause for human life and the importance of promoting their complete elimination.

Japan

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during a war, Japan is committed to ensuring that the humanitarian consequences and tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never be forgotten. With this aim, Japan places the utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially for younger generations to encourage them to think on their own and act on matters of international security as well as disarmament and non-proliferation at the national, local and individual levels.

In its Final Document, the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons highlighted education as a useful and effective means to advance nuclear disarmament. It also encouraged all States to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124). Japan reiterates the significance of those recommendations and encourages all Member States to put them into practice.

Japan is of the view that it is important to carry out disarmament and non-proliferation education in an inclusive and collaborative way with all relevant actors in all States and regions. The United Nations study stressed the importance of partnerships among Governments and international, regional and civil society organizations. Japan has made an effort to encourage dialogue and strengthen cooperation among a diverse range of actors.

The following illustrates Japan's efforts:

(a) Japan has invited young diplomats from various countries through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme every year since 1983, and 908 fellows have travelled to Japan and visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki to learn about the realities of the use of nuclear weapons;

(b) Japan has sponsored the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in different cities since 1989, where representatives of States, the United Nations, academic institutions and civil society from around the world engage in useful discussions;

(c) Japan, together with the other members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, submitted a joint working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Japan also put forward a working paper, submitted jointly with the members of the Initiative, to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference;

(d) Japan has published white papers that provide useful information on disarmament and non-proliferation and pamphlets briefly describing Japan's efforts;

(e) Japan started a programme entitled "Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons" in 2010, with the purpose of sharing the first-hand experience of atomic bombing survivors, called hibakusha. As at 31 May 2018, a total of 286 Special Communicators had been dispatched around the world on 93 occasions;

(f) In addition, Japan launched a new programme entitled "Youth Communicator for a World without Nuclear Weapons" in 2013. Under this programme, young people are expected to share the tragic consequences of nuclear weapons and their thoughts about possible steps across borders and generations. As at 31 May 2018, a total of 303 Youth Communicators had been dispatched around the world on 28 occasions;

(g) Japan held a forum for the Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons in Hiroshima in March 2016 and decided to make this programme more global. In December 2016, a second forum was held in Nagasaki and Youth Communicators from the United States and Russia attended;

(h) Japan has undertaken efforts to make the testimonies of hibakusha more widely available and has translated them into English and other languages;

(i) In March 2018, Japan held a screening event for "Nagasaki: Memories of my Son" at the Vienna International Centre in Austria. In May 2018, Japan co-hosted with the Office for Disarmament Affairs a screening event for "Paper Lanterns" at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

(j) In accordance with the recommendations made in the United Nations study to use new information and communications technology to promote education on disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan has opened a Facebook account to make the most use of social media to provide relevant material on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to people worldwide.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[15 May 2018]

Madagascar has ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (see Act No. 2015-055 of 15 January 2016 authorizing the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty).

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[7 May 2018]

In the view of Mexico, education and promotion of the values, actions and objectives of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are vital to the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons and for the consolidation of a culture of peace and a safer world. It is therefore highly important for the coming generations to have the necessary tools to achieve and maintain a peaceful world without such weapons.

For Mexico, "educating for peace" means imparting values from a perspective of ethics and citizenship, which implies such values as solidarity, justice, tolerance, respect, cooperation, autonomy and equality. Those values contribute to the development of citizens who use their knowledge to promote disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Over the last several years Mexico has therefore promoted the following disarmament activities:

- Biennial submission to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.
- Inclusion of materials on disarmament and non-proliferation in the curriculum of the Secretariat of National Defence and the Secretariat of Naval Affairs; and the Matias Romero Institute (Mexican diplomatic academy).
- The national nuclear sector has participated in various courses and training workshops under the Export Control and Related Border Security Program of the United States Department of State and the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participates in round tables and forums in Mexico and abroad with talks on nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.
- In 2016 and 2017, Mexico, in coordination with the James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies, the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Matias Romero Institute, held the third and fourth sessions, respectively of the Summer Course on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for Latin American and Caribbean diplomats. The fifth session will be held from 23 to 27 July 2018 at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

III. Implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations

A. Office for Disarmament Affairs

6. To mark 2017 as the fifteenth anniversary of the landmark United Nations study on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, the Office for Disarmament Affairs produced for its Occasional Papers series an edition entitled *Celebrating 15 Years of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education*.

7. During the reporting period, the Office added new content to its disarmament education website, most recently a podcast with Jürgen Altmann, a professor from the Technical University of Dortmund, Germany, on the topic of nanotechnology and its possible weapons applications.

8. The Office continued fostering exchanges in the context of disarmament and non-proliferation education, including organizing events together with Hibakusha Stories, an initiative of Youth Arts New York, and the Buddhist organization Rissho Kosei-kai. Staff of the Office also held exchanges with students from the Nagasaki Higashi Senior High School at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The students at these exchanges presented two separate research booklets on nuclear disarmament, which the Office made available on its disarmament education website.

9. In the reporting period, the Office, through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme, awarded 50 fellowships to national officials from 50 different Member States to enable them to participate more

effectively in international deliberation and negotiation forums.[1] The Office offered opportunities for young university graduates to get professional experience under the United Nations Associate Expert Programme. In addition, the Office in New York and Geneva trained more than 65 graduate students through the United Nations internship programme.

10. During the reporting period, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa held workshops and training in support of disarmament and non-proliferation education. These included workshops in Togo and Burkina Faso and events for countries in the Lake Chad basin on issues such as gender perspectives in disarmament, and training sessions on Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth and peace and security.

11. To celebrate the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2016, the Regional Centre, together with the Government of Togo and the United Nations Development Programme in Togo, organized a panel discussion on the theme "Culture of peace and disarmament: a pledge to sustainable development in Africa".

12. In March 2018, the Regional Centre officially released a practitioner's handbook on disarmament in Africa to serve as a guide for training on weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons in French-speaking Africa. The Centre has also produced other publications, which are available on its website (www.unrec.org/default/index.php/en/).

13. During the reporting period, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean delivered numerous seminars on small arms control and armed violence prevention and reduction to university students in northern Peru within the United Nations programme on strengthening human security and community resilience by fostering peaceful coexistence in Peru, convened over 80 people to engage in constructive dialogue on the presence of firearms in schools and to develop solutions and worked with youth from northern Peru to raise awareness about the use of firearms and their impact on society and communities through artistic performances and dance routines that reached over 800 young people.

14. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre delivered expert presentations on two separate occasions to the Naval Academy of Peru as part of its efforts to expose cadets to the wider world of disarmament and arms control and peace and security issues in general.

15. In February 2017, the Regional Centre began collaborating with the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative and its Connect Learning Management System, funded by the United States of America, to offer operational forensic ballistics webinars and facilitate live discussions for a network of Caribbean firearms examiners and forensic laboratory personnel.

16. During the reporting period, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific contributed to training programmes organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Hiroshima, Japan. The events were aimed at enhancing the ability of young diplomats from South-East Asia to engage in regional discourse on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

17. On 29 and 30 November 2017 in Hiroshima, the Regional Centre organized the twenty-seventh United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues. The Regional

[1] A separate report (A/73/113) on the activities of the Programme has been submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session pursuant to resolution 71/73.

Centre and UNITAR also co-organized a screening of the documentary film "Paper Lanterns" on 28 November as a side event of the Conference.

18. Under the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership, the Vienna office of the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized two rounds of training courses. The training courses were organized under the Women Scholarship for Peace: Global South initiative and in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Two hundred scholarships were offered to young professional women. All online courses were hosted on the disarmament and non-proliferation education dashboard, a multi-purpose and multi-user online platform.

19. These training courses were complemented by the Women Higher Education for Peace Vienna Forum, organized by the Vienna office in 2016, which provided an additional opportunity for participants of the training courses and other female professionals and students to explore career opportunities in disarmament, non-proliferation and development. For the Forum, 30 scholarships for women from the global South were made available.

20. The Vienna office coordinates the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partnership. Currently, the Partnership comprises 30 partners representing international and regional organizations, the media, non-governmental organizations and academia.

B. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

21. During the reporting period, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for Disarmament Affairs launched a new resource entitled "Effective weapons and ammunition management in a changing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration context". This practical handbook is intended to support the work relating to arms and ammunition of United Nations practitioners of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in increasingly challenging environments, including through community violence reduction programmes. Training material based on the handbook has been developed and a pilot training course was held from 25 to 29 June 2018 at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

22. As part of its programming in 17 countries and territories, the Mine Action Service employs a range of innovative techniques for awareness-raising. This includes distributing solar-powered audio players with pre-recorded educational messages in Darfur, broadcasting messages at airport arrivals in Iraq and showing risk education flashcards at checkpoints for those entering Mosul.

23. In Libya, the Service expanded its programme of training women in small arms and light weapons risk awareness, with previous trainees now acting as mentors for a new group of women.

24. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Service developed education campaigns with its partners and integrated risk awareness into the work of other United Nations agencies, for example by including informative leaflets in food packages, thereby providing vulnerable populations with the knowledge they needed to avoid harm.

25. In the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where schools have been targeted by armed groups, in order to ensure that children would be able to start the academic year safely, the Service trained over 100 people working with the United Nations Children's Fund in child protection and education on risk awareness techniques. They are now sensitizing communities in their areas of responsibility to ensure that children can identify potential threats on their way to or when at school.

26. In 2017, the Service combined peer-to-peer and mass-media awareness raising by adapting "The X Factor", a popular televised British talent competition, to the South Sudanese context.

27. The project was partnered with nine primary schools in Juba to undertake a participatory learning exercise, which involved children writing and performing songs about the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war on their own lives and within their communities. Then, in partnership with the National Mine Action Authority and with funding from the Government of Japan, the Service hosted an event entitled "Risk Factor", where each school performed live before a panel of judges. The competition generated national radio and print media coverage, gaining significant traction through social media.

28. The winning school, the Giada Girls Primary School, recorded its song professionally with the prominent South Sudanese rap group Jay Family. Its song and music video, "Beware", continue to be played on radio stations throughout South Sudan and to be performed by Jay Family in concerts in South Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda.

C. Department of Public Information

29. The global network of 59 United Nations information centres of the Department of Public Information continued to inform, engage and educate local audiences in local languages on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. During the reporting period, information centres organized educational programmes to promote nuclear non-proliferation issues among young people, conducted outreach activities to inform the general public on the work of the United Nations on disarmament and held training sessions for journalists on tools and techniques to effectively report on the work of the United Nations on peace and security issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation.

30. In September 2016, the United Nations Information Centre in Jakarta provided technical guidance and disseminated materials for a Model United Nations programme, which included issues related to international peace and security as well as disarmament and was held at President University in Sentul City, West Java, Indonesia.

31. In January 2017, the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo organized a workshop for Japanese journalists on the activities of the Security Council on disarmament and non-proliferation and on how to research United Nations materials, including official documents.

32. In February 2017, the United Nations Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan, together with Miras International School, organized the Miras International School Model United Nations Conference for secondary school students. Participants simulated the work of the Security Council on issues related to chemical and biological weapons and nuclear non-proliferation.

33. Also in February 2017, students from 8 countries and 20 different high schools came together to participate in the Vienna Schools Model United Nations, during which topics ranging from disarmament to conflict resolution were discussed.

34. In July 2017, the United Nations Information Service in Geneva organized an annual two-week intensive programme to introduce graduate students to the risk posed by nuclear weapons that the United Nations and international organizations have to face.

35. During the reporting period, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library published a new United Nations documentation research guide on disarmament, which provides researchers, academics, students and the general public with an understanding of the work of the United Nations on this topic through an exploration of the documentation and bodies of the Organization that deal with the issue.

36. In addition to providing input for 21 frequently asked questions on disarmament, the research service of the Library responded to over 100 requests for information and extended research on disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, arms trade, landmines and other disarmament-related topics. In September 2017, the Library organized an information table in support of the General Assembly high-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, highlighting relevant library resources on the topic.

37. Between June 2016 and May 2018, the Library digitized and made available online over 1,100 summary records of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

38. The Department maintained the United Nations website of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in all six official languages. During the reporting period, the website received over 300,000 page views from users around the world. The Department worked with the Office for Disarmament Affairs to ensure that appropriate information was shared on social media in a "myths and facts" format to combat misinformation campaigns on the work of the United Nations on disarmament issues. Instagram stories were produced and used to highlight special exhibits on mine action and disarmament and were aimed at reaching youth and mobile audiences.

39. The Department created other multilingual material customized for its social media outlets that was used to promote and educate the public on disarmament activities.

D. United Nations Development Programme

40. The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons of the United Nations Development Programme works to raise awareness on the impact of illegal possession and misuse of small arms and light weapons among both experts and citizens across the region. To this end, the Clearinghouse programme maintains a constant online presence, using its information exchange platform and social media channels.

41. Between June 2017 and May 2018, a special focus was placed on using digital platforms and some of the other latest technology and innovative tools to enhance the reach of messages related to the importance of disarmament.

42. During the reporting period, all destruction events were documented using photos and videos which were widely disseminated, especially on social media. In addition, the International Gun Destruction Day, celebrated annually on 9 July, was marked in 2017 by three parallel destruction events covered extensively by the media. Some of the latest social media features, such as Instagram stories, are also currently part of the online presence of the Clearinghouse programme to expand the reach of targeted audiences.

43. In May 2018, the Clearinghouse programme launched an armed violence monitoring platform — the first digital platform to monitor daily firearms incidents across South-East Europe. The platform allows citizens and experts to see how many firearms incidents occur throughout the region, as well as where they occur and who is involved.

44. To celebrate 15 years of collaboration between the Clearinghouse programme and the European Union on disarmament in South-East Europe, an event was organized in Brussels on 24 May 2018, during which a brochure powered by augmented reality was used, enabling users to visualize the top achievements on disarmament in South-East Europe.

45. In 2017, a public perception survey on the possession and use of firearms in South-East Europe was conducted to provide a better understanding of the reasons behind weapons possession, as well as the perceptions of security or insecurity related to firearms in South-East Europe. The resulting data will serve as the basis for an online campaign on the dangers of illegal possession and misuse of firearms.

46. The Clearinghouse programme continues to assist countries in South-East Europe in increasing the security of their stockpiles, including by organizing and delivering courses on implementing best practices in stockpile management techniques. During the reporting period, the Clearinghouse programme instructed 15 trainers on how to manage stockpiles in a more secure and efficient manner.

47. The Clearinghouse programme has continued implementing its Gender Coach Programme, an education programme on gender equality in disarmament policymaking, in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The Gender Coach Programme places gender equality as the key to unlocking cross-cutting solutions for pressing development challenges, from fighting gun crime to eradicating poverty.

48. In 2016, the Clearinghouse programme issued a groundbreaking study, "Gender and SALW in South-East Europe: main concerns and policy response", acknowledged twice during the reporting period as a best practice by the Secretary-General in his reports to the Security Council. Based on data in the study, a data visualization campaign was developed for social media. The campaign, entitled "Did you know that", comprised visuals highlighting the main results of the study and was posted on social media in September 2017 and disseminated online in some local languages in the region.

E. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

49. Recognizing the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training and the recommendations contained within the United Nations study on this topic (A/57/124), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) hosted several fellows and interns during the reporting period and offered briefings to numerous visiting scholars, fellows, parliamentarians and other government officials and student groups. In addition, UNIDIR continued its support for the annual Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training Programme of the office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in Hiroshima, Japan.

50. In fulfilling its mandate to provide the international community with diversified and complete data, studies and analyses, UNIDIR is implementing recommendation 2 of the United Nations study, namely to prepare, adapt and disseminate a wider range of user-friendly educational material on disarmament and non-proliferation.

51. Many of the education-related activities of UNIDIR described in previous reports of the Secretary-General are ongoing. More detailed information about specific aspects of such activities are available in the annual report of the Director, transmitted to the General Assembly, or at www.unidir.org.

F. International Atomic Energy Agency

52. The outreach and training courses of the International Atomic Energy Agency are conducted to promote the conclusion and support the implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols through seminars, briefings, training and publications. In August 2017, the Agency organized an outreach event for sub-Saharan African States, held in Lusaka.

G. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

53. Throughout the reporting period, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization organized numerous integrated outreach and capacity-building, education and training activities aimed at enhancing the understanding of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification regime, including the civil and scientific applications of the verification technologies, while promoting the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty. The Commission also continued to engage with universities and academic institutions to encourage research and analysis on the Treaty and its verification regime, promote the integration of Treaty-related issues into academic curricula and further develop its online educational resources and e-learning materials.

54. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: Science and Technology 2017 Conference was held at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. Sixth in a series, this multidisciplinary conference aimed to strengthen ties between the scientific and technological community and the Commission and to ensure that the global verification regime remains at the forefront of innovation.

55. The Commission organized the second Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Science Diplomacy Symposium in 2018, which aimed to raise awareness of the contribution of the Treaty to international peace and security, encourage cooperative and collaborative research and innovation on nuclear test monitoring science and technology and seek creative solutions to advance the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty.

56. As part of its ongoing cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Commission once again welcomed in 2016 and 2017 fellows from the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme for comprehensive study visits to learn about the Treaty and its verification regime.

57. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group continued its efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty and the establishment of its verification regime by organizing conferences and events, authoring op-eds and articles and advocating for the Treaty in global forums on international peace and security. The Youth Group currently has more than 400 members, representing over 70 countries and all regions of the world.

58. The Commission expanded its internship programme by offering undergraduate and graduate students opportunities in both the technical and non-technical divisions of the Commission. Internships provide opportunities for the accumulation of knowledge and expertise on the Treaty and its verification regime while building the skills necessary to succeed in an international organizational setting.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations by civil society and non-governmental organizations

A. Academic Peace Orchestra Middle East

59. Academic Peace Orchestra Middle East is a classic track-two initiative, consisting of some 150 experts, which aims to create new momentum for non-proliferation and disarmament in the Middle East and Gulf region after the failed 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Its focus includes facilitating the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and making use of the endangered Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which represents a landmark success in multilateralism, diplomacy and compromise that was agreed upon in mid-2015.

60. Currently its activities are geared towards getting prepared for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference and initiating an additional publication series on nuclear safety issues mainly linked to terrorism as a further attempt to start a dialogue process among experts. More information is available at www.academicpeaceorchestra.com and https://bit.ly/2DCIKsz.

B. American Academy of Arts and Sciences

61. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, through projects on topics including meeting the challenges of the new nuclear age; new dilemmas in ethics, technology and war; civil wars, violence and international responses; and the global nuclear future initiative, draws on the expertise of policymakers, practitioners and scholars to foster knowledge and inform innovative and more sustainable policies, bridging academic research and policy outside the time constraints of policy deadlines. Recommendations of the Academy include moving beyond the idea of security as the absence of war towards higher aspirations of collective peace, development and justice. The Academy seeks to develop educational materials that can help faculty, students, journalists, policymakers and the public to understand complex security issues.

C. Amplify

62. Amplify is a global network of young people working for nuclear abolition, officially launched in May 2016. In the past two years, Amplify has conducted various educational activities, engaging young people from around the world. The Amplify Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition was held from 17 to 21 June 2017 in New York on the margins of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

63. The Amplify network has continuously emphasized the importance of disarmament education at various international forums. Its members are engaged in educational activities in their respective countries, raising public awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons, their humanitarian consequences, the importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and what actions young people can take towards nuclear abolition.

D. California Polytechnic State University Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group

64. The Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group focuses on ethical, legal and policy concerns arising from novel sciences and technologies, particularly on military and related systems, including robotics, cyberweapons, human enhancements, non-lethal weapons, space systems and more. At the United Nations, the Group has participated in meetings of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and provides ethics counsel to defence organizations and non-governmental organizations globally.

65. The Group is non-partisan, often negotiating a sensible path between the hype and the gloom-and-doom that surround emerging technologies. More information is available at http://ethics.calpoly.edu.

E. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Peace Education

66. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Peace Education empowers thousands of school students across England with knowledge of nuclear weapons issues each year, by engaging them with questions on those issues. Approximately 10,000 copies of its five free teaching packs are downloaded or distributed annually. It also delivers around 80 free school workshops and talks.

67. Cross-curricular resources and sessions cater to youth aged 7 to 19 and a range of abilities. They encourage critical thinking through interactive and collaborative learning methods, such as role play, group presentations and debates. Free teacher training is delivered on how to teach controversial topics.

68. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Peace Education does not campaign, but rather encourages discussion and debate. It believes that the ripple effect of its work will lead to a more informed national conversation on nuclear weapons.

F. European Union Non-Proliferation Consortium

69. In March 2017, the European Union Non-Proliferation Consortium e-learning course on non-proliferation and disarmament was launched, featuring 15 learning units by leading scholars in the field on a range of topics from weapons of mass destruction to emerging technologies. All learning units contain video presentations, animations, text overviews, quizzes, interactive pages, and an overview of relevant European Union actions, resulting in roughly one hour of material per unit.

70. The course is an open educational resource and is available to all interested users worldwide without registration. However, a certificate can be obtained after a voluntary registration. The course was developed and designed under the leadership of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, in its role as a member of the Consortium, which is coordinating the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks (www.nonproliferation.eu/). The course was funded through European Union Council Decision 2014/129/CFSP of 10 March 2014. It can be found at https://nonproliferation-elearning.eu/.

G. Foundation for Peace

71. The Foundation for Peace (FundiPau) is a Catalan non-governmental organization founded in 1983 in Barcelona as a result of the cooperation of many citizens who worked to promote and progressively establish a culture of peace in a democratic way.

72. FundiPau works on peace research in order to deepen understanding of the causes of violence and wars and their prevention, carries out peace education to replace the culture of violence with a culture of peace in a progressive way, and campaigns to raise awareness and lobby policymakers to engage political institutions in commitments to disarmament, non-proliferation, demilitarization, conflict prevention, full respect for human rights and an active promotion of the culture of peace.

73. The past two years, FundiPau has focused on educational and training activities dedicated to the causes of the refugee crisis, as a result of arms proliferation and war, the defence of human rights and the ban of nuclear weapons.

H. Future of Life Institute

74. With a mission to safeguard civilization from humanity's most dangerous technologies, the Future of Life Institute spent much of the past year focused on nuclear disarmament and banning lethal autonomous weapons systems. The Institute worked with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to build support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and through that effort, presented an open letter and video in support of the ban, which included the signatures of over 3,700 scientists from 100 countries.

75. In October 2017, the Institute presented the inaugural Future of Life Award and a $50,000 prize to the family of Vasili Arkhipov. Regarding lethal autonomous weapons systems, the Institute created the viral video "Slaughterbots" and built the website https://autonomousweapons.org to provide information about risks related to these weapon systems and the related work of the United Nations. The Institute also supported an open letter from artificial intelligence companies calling upon the United Nations to ban lethal autonomous weapons systems.

I. Geneva Centre for Security Policy

76. The Geneva Centre for Security Policy, an international foundation established in 1995 on the initiative of Switzerland and currently with 54 member States, provides executive education on a wide range of security-related issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, to hundreds of representatives from Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector from the whole world. Specific courses on those topics in 2017 and 2018 covered the Arms Trade Treaty as well as arms control in the Middle East and North Africa region. More information is available at www.gcsp.ch.

J. Getulio Vargas Foundation

77. The Centre for International Relations at the Getulio Vargas Foundation School of Social Sciences has been an active player in the promotion of education on disarmament and non-proliferation in Brazil and in Latin America. In the past year, the Centre organized seminars and lectures discussing the recent developments in the

global nuclear order and advanced its fellowship programme for early-career scholars on nuclear politics and security. It was also involved in oral history projects on non-proliferation negotiations and continued to mobilize the nuclear debate through a series of new publications. Finally, it started a new research and capacity-building programme dedicated to developing a new curriculum for nuclear education in Brazil, to be applied in the next years.

K. Global Compliance Research Project

78. The reason given in December 2016 by most non-nuclear North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries for not adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was that the nuclear weapons of the United States of America were essential for all of their security. Ursula Franklin, a physicist, pacifist and educator, has stated, "We must reappropriate the word 'security' and not allow it to be distorted by the military", and recalled the 1982 report of the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, written by Olof Palme, entitled "Common security: a programme for disarmament".

79. The Global Compliance Research Project has been working on an educational programme which includes: (a) redefining "security" as common security; (b) identifying threats to common security; (c) placing the Sustainable Development Goals within the context of international precedents; (d) delineating some United Nations systemic constraints, which could be overcome; and (e) making a modest proposal for a universal declaration of common security.

L. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

80. The organization International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has for decades educated decision makers, non-governmental organizations and the public about the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and armed violence as a basis for advancing nuclear disarmament, restrictions on the arms trade, reductions in global military expenditure and increases in funding for social priorities as identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

81. The leadership of the organization on this issue has contributed to the signing of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017 and the awarding of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which the organization founded in 2007. The organization has conducted presentations, workshops and training on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear war at United Nations meetings and international conferences worldwide, as well as research and education on public health approaches to armed violence prevention. More information is available at www.ippnw.org/, www.facebook.com/ippnw/ and Twitter (@IPPNW).

M. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

82. Since its founding in 1989, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies has sought to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction by training the next generation of non-proliferation specialists while raising global public awareness on such issues. Its graduate students pursue a two-year degree programme that combines formal in-class coursework through the Monterey Institute of International Studies with on-the-job training at the Center and internships at international organizations with non-proliferation and disarmament responsibilities. Additional audiences include high school instructors and students, undergraduate

students, government officials, diplomats and scientists, who receive training from experts of the Center through a variety of formats.

83. The Center has increasingly made use of various forms of online learning tools and new technology to reach out to remote audiences. Its seminars and events are recorded and uploaded on its website for further outreach. In addition, the Center increasingly utilizes social media to disseminate information and reach out to a wider range of audiences and has launched training programmes in the use of open-source tools and technologies, such as geospatial imaging, 3D modelling and big data analysis to enhance non-proliferation and disarmament verification. More information on the educational activities of the Center, including online multimedia programmes, is available at www.nonproliferation.org.

N. Japanese Communist Party

84. The Japanese Communist Party is committed to realizing the total abolition of nuclear weapons in cooperation with the hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) and citizens' peace movements in Japan. The Party has been working to raise public awareness of nuclear disarmament and to promote grass-roots activities, including the International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

85. The Party Chairperson, a Member of Parliament, participated in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, and made a speech in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Party has advocated the Treaty at international meetings, including the International Conference of Asian Political Parties. The Party is urging the Government of Japan to join the Treaty and calling for people's support to that end. In addition, the Party issued statements calling for peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. More information is available at www.jcp.or.jp.

O. King's College London Centre for Science and Security Studies

86. The Centre for Science and Security Studies serves as a focal point for non-proliferation and nuclear security research, training and education. It was established in 2003 by King's College London and supported by a grant from the MacArthur Foundation. Its traditional education activities include three master's programmes, additional modules for students in bachelor's and master's programmes and the supervision of PhD students and postdoctoral scholars.

87. Beyond the traditional classroom, the activities of the Centre include train-the-trainer/educator programmes in nuclear security, work with industry on compliance with non-proliferation sanctions and export controls, and outreach. Staff research and publications contribute to knowledge and debate on non-proliferation and nuclear security, and a seminar series featuring both internal and external speakers provides opportunities to share knowledge and practical lessons with staff, students, policymakers and the general public.

P. Mayors for Peace

88. In order to foster international favourable public opinion for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, the Mayors for Peace, in its 2017 General Conference, decided in its action plan to implement programmes that emphasize

peace education to inspire and encourage younger generations to get involved in peace activities.

89. These programmes include: (a) the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program, which involves inviting youth from member cities to Hiroshima, Japan, to participate in programmes focused on the experiences of hibakusha and their desire for peace, and to foster relationships with one another; (b) the Mayors for Peace Internship Programme, which enables young staff from member cities to participate in internships at the Mayors for Peace secretariat in Hiroshima; (c) the Mayors for Peace Youth Forum, where youngsters present and discuss their hopes and thoughts about peace gained through peace activities; and (d) the promotion of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course, which is designed to convey the realities of the atomic bombings and atrocity of war at colleges and universities.

Q. Mines Action Canada

90. Mines Action Canada is a non-governmental organization focused on humanitarian disarmament. In 2017, Mines Action Canada hosted the Women in Disarmament Youth Leaders Forum on the margins of the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention on Landmines. This Forum focused on young women leaders from landmine-affected regions, with 12 young women from 12 countries participating. The purpose of the Forum was to provide disarmament education, skills training and mentorship to foster the next generation of disarmament leaders. Strong disarmament education programming is needed to ensure that the treaties of today become the reality of tomorrow.

R. New Zealand Disarmament and Security Centre

91. The New Zealand Disarmament and Security Centre continues to implement recommendations from the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education. It provides education on disarmament through presentations to schools and community groups, the media, websites and social media, provides a resource library for the community, especially students, and prepares events to highlight significant peace and nuclear-free status anniversaries, such as the twentieth anniversary on 8 July 2016 of the historic advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons and the thirtieth anniversary in June 2017 of the passage by New Zealand of nuclear-free legislation. It also highlights United Nations days dedicated to peace, non-violence and disarmament. Four members of the Centre attended the negotiations on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as representatives of civil society and engaged the New Zealand public through the media and public outreach to raise awareness of the new Treaty.

S. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

92. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has been educating people in the United States of America and around the world since 1982 about the urgent need for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Based in Santa Barbara, United States, its mission is to educate and advocate for peace and a world free of nuclear weapons and to empower peace leaders.

93. The Foundation engages in numerous educational activities focused on peace and nuclear disarmament, including producing online and printed educational materials, lectures and curricula for use in schools. Key activities include:

- Publications by staff of the Foundation
- Over 100 public lectures on the need for nuclear weapons abolition and on the nuclear disarmament lawsuits of the Marshall Islands at the International Court of Justice and United States Federal Court
- Engagement with students through internships and its Peace Literacy programme

T. Outrider Foundation

94. The Outrider Foundation believes in the power of an informed, engaged public. It helps non-experts to understand nuclear issues and equips them to influence policymakers. Outrider aims to involve ordinary citizens in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and ending the threat of nuclear war. To do this, Outrider built a comprehensive, educational website that covers a range of nuclear issues, from the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to relations between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Outrider speaks with students at the local high school about how they can make a difference. Outrider gives media interviews, writes opinion pieces and hosts public lectures.

95. Every year Outrider participates in the local science festival where there is a virtual reality film screening and hands-on learning experience for thousands of students. Outrider also sponsors university students as nuclear policy interns year-round. More information on Outrider's educational digital platform is available at https://outrider.org/nuclear-weapons.

U. Pace University

96. Pace University plays a globally recognized leading role in disarmament education. Its Peace and Justice Studies major is among the largest undergraduate programmes in the United States of America. Faculty members offered relevant classes, including Model United Nations and Global Politics of Disarmament and Arms Control. Pace students engaged in disarmament internships, on-the-job training and service-learning placements.

97. Through the Pace University International Disarmament Institute, launched in 2016, faculty members disseminated their research and provided technical assistance to States and non-governmental organizations involved in disarmament policymaking.

98. In partnership with Control Arms, Pace provided training on the Arms Trade Treaty to East African States and civil society, with funding from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation.

99. Pace students and faculty participated in advocacy efforts to award the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ensuring the inclusion of peace and disarmament education, victim assistance and environmental remediation provisions in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

V. PAX

100. PAX is striving for humanitarian disarmament by working on better regulation and the prohibition of certain weapons, in particular weapons which, by their nature or through incorrect use, make no distinction between civilians and combatants. PAX

has been involving all generations in its work by setting up projects and platforms to inform, mobilize and involve them in disarmament-related issues.

101. PAX has incorporated a number of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education. PAX regularly publishes reports and articles on websites in languages other than the United Nations official languages, such as Dutch. It works with faith-based organizations in developing educational materials, operates within international disarmament campaigns to distribute educational brochures and videos, hosts internships for students and engages a new generation in nuclear weapons diplomacy by organizing training sessions on nuclear disarmament for Dutch and international students and by providing access to the 2018 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

W. Peace Boat

102. During the reporting period, Peace Boat continued to actively engage in disarmament education, notably through its Hibakusha Project, which brings survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki around the world to share their tragic experiences, educate people about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and catalyse public support towards a nuclear-free world. Peace Boat held meetings with policymakers (high-level municipal, national and regional government officials and parliamentarians), gave public testimonies and addressed diplomats, youth groups and the media.

103. An active member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Peace Boat participated actively in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, and Nobel Peace Prize ceremony events. It also took part in international forums, including sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues. Approximately 11,500 people from Japan and around the world joined its on-board educational programmes from 2016 to 2018.

X. Peace Movement Aotearoa

104. Peace Movement Aotearoa is the national networking peace organization of New Zealand. Its core disarmament activities comprise: networking, outreach and disarmament education; national coordination of humanitarian disarmament and related campaigns; and its youth disarmament engagement strategy.

105. Among other things, the Peace Movement coordinated the five global humanitarian disarmament campaigns of the country, namely on nuclear weapons, military spending, killer robots, cluster munitions and landmines, coordinated a range of other national peace and disarmament projects and is the New Zealand contact for the global campaigns on explosive weapons in populated areas and child soldiers.

106. It also regularly includes disarmament issues in its reports to United Nations human rights treaty monitoring bodies and in its publicly available resources.

107. Its website is the most comprehensive peace and disarmament site of New Zealand, providing public information and resources on a wide range of topics.

Y. PIR Center (Russian Center for Policy Studies)

108. PIR Center (Russian Center for Policy Studies) is the key research non-governmental organization that took the lead in promoting education in non-proliferation and disarmament in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 2016, at the initiative of PIR Center, three institutions, namely the PIR Center itself, the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, launched a dual degree graduate programme in non-proliferation studies. By May 2018, two cohorts of students from China, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the United States of America took part in the programme.

109. In 2016 and 2017, more than 70 young experts participated in the other training projects of PIR Center, namely the International School on Global Security and the internship programme. In 2018, the Center launched a three-year project, Young Experts in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Process. In 2017, PIR Center proposed a 10-year plan on improving disarmament and non-proliferation education. One of the key advantages of the work of PIR Center is the focus on selecting and promoting young professionals, motivating them to work on non-proliferation and providing opportunities for their professional growth.

Z. Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies

110. The proliferation and nuclear policy programme of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in London operates two major strands of activity that deliver disarmament and non-proliferation education and training: the United Kingdom project on nuclear issues and the counter proliferation finance training project.

111. The United Kingdom project on nuclear issues is a cross-generational initiative designed to encourage emerging nuclear scholars and professionals in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and beyond. It runs a varied suite of activities, including an annual conference, immersive disarmament and non-proliferation simulation activities and technical and policy workshops, to develop the knowledge of its members.

112. The Institute provides training on issues related to countering proliferation finance to Governments and the private sector around the world based on its world-leading research programme, and is currently focusing heavily on South-East Asia and Africa. It has also partnered with multinational bodies, including the training body of the Financial Action Task Force and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

AA. Senzatomica

113. Initiated by Soka Gakkai Italy, Senzatomica has grown into a nationwide grass-roots campaign that promotes nuclear disarmament through an exhibition and numerous initiatives in collaboration with like-minded associations. The goal of Senzatomica is to inform and educate, particularly young people, in order to raise public awareness about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and to spread a wave of action for peace.

114. Since 2014, the Senzatomica exhibition has been held in 75 Italian cities and visited by over 360,000 people, more than a third of whom have been students in elementary and high schools.

115. Senzatomica also co-organized with the Holy See the high-level international symposium "Perspectives for a world free of nuclear weapons and for integral disarmament".

BB. Simons Foundation

116. The Simons Foundation, based in Canada, again provided in 2017 and 2018 the Graduate Research Awards for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Research in partnership with Global Affairs Canada; produced briefing papers on nuclear disarmament, Arctic security and Canadian defence policy; co-convened the annual outer space security conferences of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research; established the Simons Graduate Award, Simons Undergraduate Research Assistantships, the Simons Visiting Scholars Programme and the Disarmament, Global and Human Security programme at the University of British Columbia; continues to fund an adjunct professorship in international studies and a fellowship in international security at Simon Fraser University; and funded the nuclear disarmament research of Bruce Blair and the programme on science and global security at Princeton University.

117. The Simons Foundation also continues to be the principal sponsor of Global Zero and its international campus education and outreach programme, the Global Zero student institutes, sponsored the Youth as Peacebuilders Forum of the United Nations Association in Canada, and co-convened a number of public lectures and educational events on nuclear disarmament issues.

CC. Soka Gakkai International

118. Between July 2016 and June 2018, Soka Gakkai International conducted a wide range of disarmament education activities, particularly focusing on raising public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons and promoting the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

119. During the Treaty negotiations, together with some Governments and other non-governmental organizations, Soka Gakkai International emphasized the importance of disarmament education, which was included in the preamble of the Treaty. In 2018, Soka Gakkai International launched the second People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition, the aim of which is to support the current efforts to realize the early entry into force and universalization of the Treaty.

120. Soka Gakkai International continued its interfaith efforts to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Its constituent organizations around the world also conducted a variety of educational activities, including exhibitions, discussions and film screenings, often led by women and young people.

DD. Texas A&M University Center for Nuclear Security Science and Policy Initiatives

121. The Center for Nuclear Security Science and Policy Initiatives at Texas A&M University is the first academic institution in the United States of America focused on technical graduate education, research and services related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The curriculum also includes policy components.

122. The Center has been supporting activities in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education, training and outreach since 2006. The faculty teaches graduate-level courses that lead to a nuclear engineering master's degree with a specialization in nuclear non-proliferation, as well as both academic and professional certificates in nuclear security.

123. The Nuclear Safeguards and Security Education Portal, developed by the Center, consists of 14 online modules on various topics of nuclear non-proliferation. The Portal is free and open to anyone. The Center has conducted workshops throughout the world to foster nuclear security culture and education, including curriculum development for institutions interested in establishing academic programmes in nuclear security and non-proliferation.

EE. Tufts University Institute for Global Leadership

124. The Institute for Global Leadership at Tufts University prepares new generations of effective and ethical leaders to comprehend and find solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

125. The Institute integrates interdisciplinary academic and innovative experiential education and is at the forefront of efforts that encourage thinking beyond boundaries and acting across borders.

126. Its Inquiry programme is an intensive, academic annual programme for about 300 high school students that facilitates the understanding of complex global issues through investigative methods and role-playing techniques.

127. Its flagship programme, Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship, engages the campus in year-long programming around a selected theme, culminating in an international symposium. Other key initiatives include programmes in civil-military relations and sustainable development.

FF. Universidad Autónoma de Baja California

[Original: Spanish]

128. The Universidad Autonoma de Baja California promotes research on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the areas of international relations and international law in order to contribute to the academic debate and find global solutions, as well as promoting education and a culture of peace.

129. The University participated in conferences on such topics as disarmament education, humanitarian impact and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at various universities.

GG. Verification Research, Training and Information Centre

130. The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre is a non-governmental organization governed by a board of trustees and regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Its mission is to support the implementation and enhance the effectiveness of international agreements with a particular focus on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament through impartial research and analysis, expert advice and capacity-building, training and legislative assistance. It has the following programmes mandated to include, among other aspects, the education and training of relevant State authorities and other organs of civil society:

(a) The National Implementation Measures Programme works with Governments to improve the national implementation of Security Council resolutions, treaties and other internationally accepted instruments and best practices;

(b) The Verification and Monitoring Programme works on arms control, security, environment and trade issues, including illicit trafficking in radioactive materials, nuclear disarmament verification and conventional arms controls. The programme consistently provides training on the comprehensive safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreements between States and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards.

HH. World without War (Mundo sin Guerras e sin Violencia)

[Original: Spanish]

131. For the past two years, the activities of World without War have mainly been concentrated on the educational field, through university days and workshops for peace in educational centres. Such public activities as forums and marches for peace, non-violent conflict resolution and nuclear disarmament have also continued.

132. The assessment of the possibility of holding a second World March for Peace and Nonviolence, after consultations with individuals, groups and collaborators, led to the decision to do so and marked a turning point in our activities.

133. Our activities are now directed towards establishing the conditions for the second march, which will take place from 2 October 2019 to 8 March 2020, on the basis of the demonstration effect and scalable actions, and with training in non-violence for volunteers.

V. Conclusions

134. **Increased partnerships between Governments, international organizations and civil society groups enables collective reach to a more global audience on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.**

135. **Governments, international organizations and civil society groups have continued to increase digital content and their use of and access to new technologies, such as social media tools, to disseminate information and reach a wider audience. It is noteworthy that advances such as virtual reality and augmented reality have been utilized as tools in disarmament education.**

136. **Disarmament and non-proliferation education remains an important way to bring the discussion of those critical issues to schools in all countries to inform and empower young people to become agents of peace by helping them to mobilize, act and promote the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation.**

United Nations A/73/120

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 100 (g) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Programme continues to publish print and electronic versions of the two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, which are available from the website of the Office (www.un.org/disarmament). The website is the main means of disseminating information. It is an important repository of information where Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public can access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. The Office continues to facilitate the participation of civil society in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with non-governmental organizations. The present report also provides details on the many contributions made by the Department of Public Information in support of the work of the Organization on disarmament.

* A/73/50.

18-10903 (E) 110718

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 71/74, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office, guided by the priorities of Member States, as set out in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has prioritized the advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society, including through the recognition of the vital contributions of the media, think tanks and civil society organizations in frequent and in-depth interactions with them.

4. Of particular note was the announcement of the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament, as set out in the document entitled "Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament", in which disarmament is integrated into the priorities of the whole United Nations system. The agenda for disarmament addresses the subjects of weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and future technologies and weapons systems. It presents a framework based on concrete, practical actions for creating new partnerships and greater collaboration between the United Nations, Governments, civil society, the private sector and other actors.

5. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, priority was accorded to commemorating both the International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August) and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September); the tenth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York on 20 September 2017; and the first and second sessions of the preparatory committee of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held at Geneva from 23 April to 4 May 2018.

6. In the area of conventional weapons, focus was accorded to the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018, at which progress made in the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons was also reviewed.

7. Funding for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, in particular the voluntary trust fund for the Programme. The status of the trust fund as at 31 December 2017 is contained in the annex to the present report. During the reporting period, the trust fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office is grateful for the generous donations and support it has received.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

8. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the flagship publication of the Office, was offered to all United Nations delegations in two parts. Part I, on resolutions and decisions, was disseminated during the proceedings of the Disarmament Commission and part II, on the major disarmament issues of the preceding year, was distributed to all delegations participating in the work of the First Committee.

9. The Occasional Papers series helps in the dissemination of the expert input from individuals, panels and seminars sponsored by the Office. The following were disseminated free of charge and posted on the website of the Office during the reporting period:

- Occasional Paper No. 28, October 2016, entitled *Rethinking General and Complete Disarmament in the Twenty-first Century*,[1] featured examinations of historic, strategic, humanitarian and economic aspects of general and complete disarmament by leading scholars, diplomats and activists. Their analyses elaborated and elevated the case for prohibiting conventional weapons systems as well as nuclear weapons.
- Occasional Paper No. 29, October 2016, entitled *Bringing Democracy to Disarmament: A Historical Perspective on the Special Sessions of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament*,[2] in which the previous three special sessions on disarmament, held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, and the efforts to convene a fourth are considered. Member States have used such special sessions to help to develop or strengthen global norms in the field of disarmament.
- Occasional Paper No. 30, November 2017, entitled *Perspectives on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems*,[3] in which the issue is considered from five different disciplinary viewpoints, was published ahead of the first meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. The Group is mandated to examine issues related to emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems in the context of the objectives and purposes of the Convention.
- Occasional Paper No. 31, December 2017, entitled *Celebrating 15 Years of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education*,[4] contained an examination of the topic, in commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124), transmitted to the General Assembly in 2002.

10. The Office continued to produce UNODA Update (https://www.un.org/disarmament/update/), an e-publication highlighting recent activities of various disarmament forums and related online materials issued by the Office and others.

11. The Office publishes the *Civil Society and Disarmament* series, in the context of General Assembly resolutions on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IX.8.
[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.IX.9.
[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.IX.6.
[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.IX.4.

education. The series provides a forum for members of civil society to share their views and to further an informed debate on topical issues relating to disarmament, arms limitation and security. The following publications were issued during the reporting period:

- *Civil Society Engagement in Disarmament Processes: The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Ban*.[5] The movement to enact a treaty to ban nuclear weapons reframed the focus of nuclear weapons from defence strategies to their humanitarian and environmental consequences. This edition presents the case that a nuclear-weapons-ban treaty is a vital step in the ultimate abolition of nuclear weapons.

- *Voluntary, Non-Binding Norms for Responsible State Behaviour in the Use of Information and Communications Technology: A Commentary*.[6] This publication contains commentary on the recommendations for voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour, made by the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (see A/70/174). Responding to an open call for comments, scholars, experts and enthusiasts submitted recommendations, comments and guidance for understanding and interpreting the Group's recommendations.

12. The Office continued to publish its study series, which highlights reports of various groups of governmental experts. In December 2017, it published study series No. 36, entitled *The Global Reported Arms Trade — Transparency in Armaments through the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: A Guide to Assist National Points of Contact in Submitting Their National Reports*,[7] commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Register.

13. The 2015/16 and 2016/17 editions of *Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions* were issued in October 2016 and October 2017, respectively. The widely disseminated annual report illustrates how the Office has achieved specific results through donor partnerships, making them an essential part of attaining important disarmament goals.

14. In June 2017, the information booklet entitled *The Biological Weapons Convention: An Introduction* was issued. Produced in cooperation with the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention and with financial assistance from the European Union, the publication describes in easily understandable terms the importance and benefits of the Convention.

15. In August 2017, the Office disseminated the booklet entitled *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Signature and Ratification*, which describes the procedures for States to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty. It is available in English and French.

16. In October 2017, the Office released the fourth edition of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*, a publication intended to promote public understanding and support of multilateral action in the field of disarmament and arms limitation. The fourth edition includes updated figures, tables and information on the status of treaties; new analysis of key developments since 2012; discussion of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and a new chapter on emerging threats from cyberweaponry, unmanned combat aerial vehicles and lethal autonomous weapons systems.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.IX.2.
[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.IX.3.
[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.IX.2.

17. In January 2018, the Office and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations jointly published *Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context: A Handbook for United Nations DDR Practitioners*. The *Handbook* aims at equipping those working in the fields of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration with practical resources for designing effective weapons and ammunition management operations and other arms control activities, as part of such programmes.

18. On 24 May 2018, at the University of Geneva, the Secretary-General announced his agenda for disarmament, as set out in the Office's publication "Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament". In his agenda for disarmament, the Secretary-General outlines a set of practical measures across the entire range of disarmament issues, including weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms and future weapon technologies and seeks to generate fresh perspectives and to explore areas where serious dialogue is required to bring disarmament back to the heart of common efforts for peace and security.

19. The Office offers on its website a series of concise, two-page fact sheets on various topics within its purview. In 2016 and 2017, 36 fact sheets were updated on a twice-yearly basis. In 2018, an additional fact sheet was added.

B. Website

20. The number of visitors to the website remained high throughout 2016 and 2017, with approximately 1 million total visitors during the period. Website traffic was highest during periods in which disarmament and non-proliferation issues were garnering worldwide attention in news media, such as during the conference leading to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017 and the announcement of the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament in 2018. The period surrounding the meetings of the First Committee continues to be one of the peak months for visitors to the website. Some 75 per cent are directed to the website of the Office by search engines, with the remainder either directly typing the URL or accessing the website via links from other websites and social media.

C. Podcasts

21. Two podcast episodes were made available as part of the *Disarmament Today* series. In 2016, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, Shorna-Kay Richards, was interviewed in an episode entitled "Gender and disarmament", in which she provided an overview of her experience as a delegate in various disarmament forums. In 2018, in the episode entitled "A discussion on nanotechnology" a researcher and lecturer at the Technical University of Dortmund, Jürgen Altmann, discussed the security implications of potential military applications of nanotechnology.

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

22. Through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Office organized the fifteenth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 17 and 18 November 2016. Participants at the Conference addressed regional

security dialogue and confidence-building, with a focus on nuclear issues concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the implementation of the relevant Security Council sanctions regime. Participants also discussed the nexus between chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security and cybersecurity, as well as export control regimes.

23. With the Government of Japan, the Office, through the Regional Centre, jointly organized the twenty-sixth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, held in Nagasaki, Japan, from 12 to 14 December 2016. At the Conference, held as part of a series of events entitled "International conference in Nagasaki: towards a world free of nuclear weapons", more than 50 participants discussed current approaches to nuclear disarmament; regional security issues, including the roles of nuclear-weapon-free zones; the role of civil society; and the priorities and challenges of the 2020 review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

24. The sixteenth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues was held in Seoul on 16 and 17 November 2017. Around 40 representatives from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, policy institutes, non-governmental organizations and academia participated in the Conference.

25. The twenty-seventh United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues took place at the International Conference Centre in Hiroshima, Japan, on 29 and 30 November 2017. The event was organized by the Office through the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Government of Japan and in partnership with the event's hosts, the Prefecture of Hiroshima and the City of Hiroshima. The attendees included more than 50 representatives from Governments and intergovernmental organizations, research institutes, academia and non-governmental organizations.

26. A large number of side events were organized separately and jointly by permanent missions to the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office during the periods surrounding the following: meetings of the First Committee during the seventy-first and seventy-second sessions of the General Assembly; Third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and the Preparatory Committee thereof; and first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Additional information on many of these events is available on the website of the Office.

B. Events

27. As part of its outreach efforts, the Office continued to organize and host a range of meetings, seminars and events, including the following:

- On 14 October 2016, the Office, together with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva hosted an event on the disruptive impact of 3D printing in the creation of weapons, synthetic biology and autonomous weapons systems on international security, including disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as international law.
- On 18 October 2016, the Office and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations organized an event on curbing arms flows from the field perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at the offices of the Mission in New York.

- On 20 October 2016, the Office held an event commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

- On 21 October 2016, the Office held an event at Headquarters to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of its Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

- In October 2016, the Office screened the following three documentary films on nuclear disarmament that complemented the ongoing work of the First Committee:

  (a) *The Nuclear Requiem*, a narrative film reflecting the ongoing struggle of addressing with the most lethal weapon ever invented, the nuclear weapon;

  (b) *Command and Control*, in which a past accident in the United States involving the explosion of a ballistic missile carrying the most powerful nuclear warhead is examined;

  (c) *Collisions*, a virtual reality film about the Martu tribe, located in the western Australian desert, recounting the first contact between traditional indigenous populations and those conducting nuclear tests in the 1950s.

- On 8 November 2016, at Headquarters, the Office and Hibakusha Stories held the fifth annual "Hiroshima and Nagasaki: creating curriculum for nuclear disarmament" workshop for 29 New York City high school teachers from 13 different schools.

- On 10 December 2016, an event entitled "A conversation with youth", promoted the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty through an organized partnership between the Office, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the United Nations Information Service in Vienna and the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The panellists, the Executive Secretary of the Treaty Organization and the High Representative answered questions at the event and through social media.

- On 8 and 9 June 2017 in Mexico City, the Government of Mexico, in cooperation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and supported by the Office and the Government of Germany, organized an industrial outreach conference. Government and industry representatives discussed the value of working together to ensure that materials and technology that could be misused to produce weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery did not fall into the hands of terrorists and other non-State actors.

- On 8 August 2017, the non-governmental organization committee for peace in Vienna and the Office organized an event in memory of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The event was held at the Vienna International Centre and was dedicated to the victims and survivors of the atomic bombings of 1945.

- On 6 October 2017, the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, in collaboration with the Office, organized an event on emerging technologies and their effects on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, held at Headquarters. The event highlighted the dual-use nature of technological innovations and that civilian technologies often carried military implications.

- On 18 October 2017, as a side event to the meetings of the First Committee, the Permanent Mission of Japan partnered with the Office to host a screening of the documentary film entitled *Paper Lanterns*, which is the story of 12 American prisoners of war who were killed in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the Japanese citizen, Shigeaki Mori, who refused to let them be forgotten.

- On 23 October 2017, the Buddhist organization Rissho Kosei-kai partnered with the Office to host a panel discussion entitled "Promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education". The High Representative noted at the event the important role that education played in disarmament and non-proliferation, as it constituted an "indispensable investment" in humanity's future.

28. More information on the aforementioned events and many others held during the period under review is available as part of the UNODA Update series, available from www.un.org/disarmament/update.

C. Exhibitions

29. Exhibitions continued to be an important means of carrying out advocacy and delivering disarmament-related information at conferences and other events.

30. On 3 October 2016, the Office opened a multimedia exhibition at Headquarters in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of its Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament. Through a series of photos, the work and achievements of the three Regional Centres in supporting the disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives of Member States was highlighted. A separate video featured clips of messages delivered by the Secretary-General, Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas and the Permanent Representatives of China, Germany, Jamaica and Nigeria to the United Nations about the significant achievements of the Centres in their 30-year history.

31. In observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September 2017, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library organized an exhibition of disarmament-related research materials, including e-books, journals and peer-reviewed articles. The exhibition was showcased during a one-day high-level event organized by the Library on issues pertaining to disarmament.

32. To commemorate "Disarmament week", held from 24 to 30 October 2017, the Office supported the installation of the 12 winning entries of the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest in the General Assembly Building as a permanent part of the Headquarters tour route.

33. In partnership with the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations, the Office supported an art exhibition at Headquarters showcasing art by Peruvian visual artist Iván Ciro Palomino, who was the first-prize winner of the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest. The exhibition, entitled "aWAReness", consisted of 16 illustrations that help to raise awareness about the dangers of war and the need for peaceful alternatives.

D. Media

34. From July 2016 to June 2018, the High Representative and senior staff of the Office participated in interviews with several international media outlets, including interviews with the United Nations News Centre.

35. In interviews and press briefings, the High Representative and senior staff of the Office covered topics ranging from the Third Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms, nuclear weapons, the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, negotiations on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the discussions about artificial intelligence (AI) at the 2017 AI for Good Global Summit.

36. The interviews of the High Representative by the United Nations News Centre included a discussion that focused on her background as a woman who holds a senior-level position at the United Nations. During the exchange, the High Representative touched upon United Nations priority issues related to both women's empowerment and Sustainable Development Goal 16 on the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies. The Centre also conducted an interview with the High Representative via Facebook Live on the day of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, helping to promote discussion about nuclear non-proliferation and the path to a world free of nuclear weapons.

37. During the reporting period, the Office issued 18 press releases to inform international media and the public about key issues and activities. Press releases are available from: www.un.org/disarmament/pressreleases.

E. Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament

38. A highlight of the reporting period for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme was the promotion of the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament.

39. The launch event was broadcast live on UN Web TV and livestreamed through a microsite created by the Office and dedicated specifically to the agenda for disarmament (www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda), through which information was provided in all six official languages of the Organization. International media organizations covered the event, including Agence France Presse, CBC, *The New York Times*, Reuters, *The Japan Times* and *The Washington Post*. The Secretary-General engaged with young people during the event by speaking directly to university students and, following the announcement, holding a press conference in which he elaborated further on his agenda for disarmament.

F. Social media, op-eds and youth engagement

40. During the reporting period, the Office used various communication channels for public outreach to young people, including lectures to high school and university students, and published opinion pieces written by the High Representative on how to engage young people, especially young women and girls, in disarmament efforts. One of the published op-eds, entitled "The Women Who Have Shaped Policies on Nuclear Weapons", specifically targeted women and girls and was published in *Teen Vogue* to mark International Women's Day.

41. Another op-ed by the High Representative, published in *Time* magazine, was entitled "Global Military Spending Has Doubled but the World Is No Safer".

42. A third opinion piece, published on the X Prize website, was entitled "Making Sure Artificial Intelligence is Harnessed for Good". The X Prize is a non-profit organization that encourages technological development that could benefit humanity.

G. Activities of the Messenger of Peace on disarmament

43. In close cooperation with the Office, the Department of Public Information takes the lead in supporting the activities of Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, whose special area of focus is disarmament. During the reporting period, Mr. Douglas undertook a number of activities aimed at young people and the general public to mobilize support for disarmament efforts.

44. On 3 May 2016, Mr. Douglas addressed the United Nations Poster for Peace award ceremony, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Garnering over 4,000 entries from 123 countries, the contest aimed at inspiring citizens across the globe to use their artistic talents to promote a world free of nuclear weapons.

45. Mr. Douglas also spoke at an event on 11 May 2016 to mark the launch of a new disarmament section of the book store in the Palais des Nations at the United Nations Office at Geneva and to honour the winners of the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva and the Office.

46. On 16 September 2016, Mr. Douglas participated in the traditional ceremony marking the International Day of Peace (21 September) at Headquarters, which includes the ringing of the Peace Bell, and moderated the annual student observance of the Day, held in the General Assembly Hall. The event brought together a record 1,800 participants, including students, diplomats, representatives of civil society and the media and celebrities, to discuss the theme: "The Sustainable Development Goals: building blocks for peace".

47. The Messenger of Peace attended the opening of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, on 26 September 2016, and posted a video with his impressions on his Facebook page. At an interview with the United Nations News Centre, he called upon the international community to collectively reduce the number of nuclear warheads and to facilitate the entry into force of major treaties and protocols to expedite nuclear disarmament.

48. To mark the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September 2016, Mr. Douglas posted a video message, which acquired over 170,000 views on Facebook. He also recorded a video message on 22 November and 12 December 2017 on the role of civil society in promoting disarmament and the need to end the use of landmines, cluster munitions and other indiscriminate weapons.

49. Mr. Douglas also posted on his social media accounts in remembrance of the Hiroshima atomic bombings and linking to a United Nations news article by the Secretary-General in which he called for intensified efforts on nuclear disarmament. In December 2017, he posted a video in which he recited article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the multilingual video collection project to raise awareness of the Declaration and commemorate its seventieth anniversary.

50. Mr. Douglas played a central role in raising funds for a special peace observance in the General Assembly Hall in 2016 to bid farewell to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and delivered a message on the importance of disarmament for lasting peace.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

51. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations (accreditation and registration) at various disarmament-related conferences, and to coordinate their side events and exhibits, as well as their presentations, in various disarmament meetings.

52. To coordinate participation in major conferences, the Office continues to maintain close contact with two major coalitions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field and the International Action Network on Small Arms in connection with small arms and light weapons. Those

coalitions are instrumental in facilitating the participation of civil society speakers in intergovernmental meetings on disarmament and non-proliferation.

53. In March 2017, 222 representatives from 58 NGOs participated in the first substantive session of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination, held in March 2017. A total of 332 representatives from 41 NGOs participated in the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in May 2017, and a total of 380 representatives from 66 NGOs attended the second session of the Committee in April and May 2018. In the area of small arms, 212 representatives from 82 non-governmental organizations participated in the Third Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2018. Its Preparatory Committee in March 2018 had 93 representatives from 36 NGOs.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

54. The Department of Public Information continued to build greater public awareness, understanding and support for the work of the United Nations in the areas of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields by promoting and covering the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances, including to local audiences in local languages through the work of the global network of United Nations information centres.

A. Multimedia coverage

55. The Department provided comprehensive support and coverage for the announcement of the Secretary-General's agenda for disarmament, in May 2018. The United Nations information service in Geneva worked with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the University of Geneva to cover the launch by the Secretary-General. It organized the promotion of the event among the Geneva media and set up the audio-visual and print media coverage. It also organized several one-on-one interviews by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs with international and Swiss media.

56. The Secretary-General's speech was featured across all of the Department's news and feature platforms, in the six official languages as well as Kiswahili and Portuguese. It was showcased as a top story on the United Nations website homepage. Posts on the United Nations social media accounts, including text, images, and videos, reached more than 1.5 million people in the first few days after the launch. During this period, users interacted with the content more than 20,000 times, and viewed the related video clips around 40,000 times.

57. Inspired by the Secretary-General's thematic priority of prevention, the United Nations information service in Vienna, in cooperation with the United Nations Communications Group in Vienna, published a microsite on the contribution of the United Nations family in Vienna on prevention, with on-line stories and concrete examples. One of the sections on the site is titled "Serving Nuclear Non-proliferation and Promoting Disarmament", on the functioning of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) verification regime to detect nuclear explosions.

58. The Department produced and distributed to partners and the global public information on events such as the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (6–10 June 2016); the Arms Trade Treaty Second Conference of State Parties (22–26 August), and the United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament (14–16 May 2018), among others.

59. The Department's multilingual, multimedia UN News teams produced stories and carried out interviews with senior officials on a range of disarmament-related issues during the reporting period, producing print and online text, radio, photographs and social media. The Department's audio teams also produced stories on the meetings of the General Assembly's First Committee (Disarmament and International Security). These were produced across all official languages, plus Kiswahili and Portuguese.

60. The Department's audio teams also provided coverage of the Science and Technology 2017 Conference, convened in June 2017 in Vienna by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, which included interviews with United Nations staff on the role of women in disarmament and non-proliferation and covered the annual observances of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare and the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

61. The Department's United Nations News posted more than 325 stories on disarmament-related issues in multiple languages during the reporting period. Several special feature items were produced, including an interview conducted with the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs in July 2017.

62. Much of the disarmament-related United Nations News coverage in 2018, across the eight languages and different platforms, focused on major international events, including allegations of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic (35 posts); Security Council meetings on the incident in Salisbury, United Kingdom (20 posts); and denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula (30 posts), including the April 2018 summit between the leaders of the two sides. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (April) was also covered during the reporting period. In addition, the Secretary-General's key address to the Conference of Disarmament in February 2018 was also highlighted in multiple languages.

63. In 2017, the Department's multilingual news, social media and feature products focused on implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the awarding in October that year of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, among other issues. News and social media platforms also covered the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Geneva (May 2017); and the Secretary-General's message for the International Day against Nuclear Tests (August 2017).

64. In 2016, United Nations News covered the twentieth anniversary of the CTBTO (2016), the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (September 2016), and a feature story with artists participating in the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest (May 2016). Also in 2016, the Department's News teams interviewed Virginia Gamba, then head of the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism. The United Nations News covered, across languages, the Small Arms Survey's Trade Update: Transfers and Transparency, which was launched at United Nations Headquarters in

New York. The Security Council's major open debate on the "Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction", held in July 2016, was covered in the eight languages as well. On other disarmament-related issues, the United Nations News teams covered the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which aimed to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

65. During the reporting period, the Department issued more than 94 detailed summaries in English and French of open intergovernmental meetings relating to disarmament. the Department also issued 116 non-meeting press releases in English on disarmament-related issues and 77 non-meeting press releases in French.

66. During the reporting period, webcast live-streaming coverage by the Department's Webcast Unit included the proceedings of the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee and meetings of the Security Council such as those on small arms and light weapons and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Short videos that highlighted the work of the United Nations related to disarmament, with information about the Organization's role, were also featured via webcast.

67. United Nations work on disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields features prominently in the Yearbook of the United Nations, the annual reference work on the activities of the Organization.

68. The Department maintains a branded website of the 1540 Committee in all six official languages. The Committee was established in 2004 pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) of the Security Council which affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security. In the reporting period the website received over 300,000 page views from users all around the world.

69. The Department also maintains multilingual websites dedicated to the observance of Disarmament Week (24–30 October) and International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September). These websites serve as effective promotional and educational resources, and have attracted young audiences between the ages of 18 to 34.

70. The Multimedia Resources Unit continued to capture and post materials related to meetings and events focused on disarmament and non-proliferation on the UN Audio-visual Library website. About 150 video and audio records were posted on the Audio-visual Library website during the reporting period. It included Security Council meetings, General Assembly meetings, press conferences and special events, most of which are available in all six languages.

71. UN Photo and the Photo Library captured, catalogued, captioned, and posted on the Library website more than 220 images relating to disarmament issues, including meetings of the General Assembly's First Committee and the Security Council; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities in United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Photo Library maintained two spotlight galleries on the UN Photo website highlighting disarmament themes: "Disarmament and the UN" and "Land Mine Issues", and promoted similar themes and content on social media channels including Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

72. During the reporting period, UN Photo and the Photo Library also provided coverage of the following meetings and special events:

- Conference on Disarmament: second informal Civil Society Forum, June 2016;
- Eighth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, September 2016;

- General Assembly's First Committee General Debate, October 2016 and 2017;
- Disarmament event and high-level panel on the future of disarmament, at New York University, featuring the Secretary-General and other United Nations officials, November 2016;
- A Member State/UNDP-organized brainstorming session on governance, disarmament and sustainable development, January 2017;
- Organizational session for the United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to ban nuclear weapons, February 2017; United Nations Conference meeting and side events, March 2017;
- Round table marking the 10th anniversary of the Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards, June 2017;
- Weapons deactivation in Colombia and the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, August 2017;
- Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, September 2017;
- General Assembly commemoration of the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, September 2017;
- Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, August 2017, January 2018, February 2018;
- United Nations Disarmament Commission, April 2017; and
- United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament, May 2018.

73. The Department's corporate social media accounts in the six official languages as well as Kiswahili and Portuguese played a key role in disseminating updates on all special observances, op-eds, and work on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. The Department covering timely updates on the United Nations disarmament work and created new customized multilingual materials on how the United Nations works every day to promote disarmament activities.

74. The Department worked with the Office for Disarmament Affairs to ensure that appropriate information was shared on social media in a "myths and facts" format, to combat misinformation campaigns on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty; the United Nations Conference on Disarmament; and other events. The Department also used Instagram stories to highlight content on mine action and disarmament targeting youth and mobile audiences.

75. The Department also created an "evergreen" video on the United Nations' disarmament agenda which was popular on Twitter and Facebook, and which will be used in future programmes to raise awareness about the United Nations' work in this area.

B. Public affairs, civil society and non-governmental organizations

United Nations information centres and Visitors Services

76. The Visitors Services in Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna conducted guided tours for more than 388,000 visitors, briefing them on the work of the Organization on

disarmament and non-proliferation. In Geneva, the tours provided information on the Conference on Disarmament, which is based in Geneva.

77. In Nairobi, tours informed visitors on the hazards of land mines and unexploded ordnance on victims and their crippling effect on economies. In Vienna, the tours provided information on the work of the CTBTO and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which are both headquartered there. Exhibitions with artefacts and photos from Hiroshima and Nagasaki were also discussed during the tours in Geneva and Vienna.

78. The Visitors Service in Vienna further organized 180 lectures by speakers from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the CTBTO for an estimated 3,500 participants. Overall, the guided tours programmes, provided an opportunity to directly engage and educate the public on the devastating results of nuclear weapons, mines and small arms as well as highlight the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

79. In collaboration with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the City of Hiroshima, team leaders from the Department's Visitors Services in Geneva, New York and Vienna travelled to Hiroshima from 2 to 5 December 2017 to participate in the inaugural "Hiroshima Briefing Programme". The initiative was started to equip Visitors Services' personnel with first-hand knowledge of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons and help them actively promote the United Nations goal of a world without these weapons. Launched on a pilot basis, the programme is expected to continue each year, subject to the availability of funds, which are generously provided by the City of Hiroshima.

80. At the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Visitors Services also disseminated information on disarmament and non-proliferation in a wide range of ways. More than 482,000 visitors participated in guided tours of the Headquarters during the reporting period and were sensitized about the work of the United Nations on disarmament. As part of the visit, tour guides shared information provided by the Office for Disarmament Affairs on spending on arms and how international peace and security is supported by the work of the United Nations on arms regulations and disarmament, while highlighting the adoption and ratification of relevant treaties and conventions. Tour guides regularly receive briefings by disarmament experts to keep them abreast of timely topics and activities on the disarmament agenda, including the work of the relevant bodies and offices involved in disarmament and non-proliferation.

81. Disarmament-related visual displays continued to be an important part of the tour route at the United Nations Headquarters. Small models of pre-assembled air- and sea-based weapons, as well as wall pictures related to the Arms Trade Treaty were added to the disarmament exhibit, helping tour guides explain how the Treaty sets out to regulate the international trade of a wide range of conventional light and heavy weaponry.

82. During the period under review, the Group Programmes Unit in New York conducted numerous briefings covering the topic of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Group Programmes Unit also continued collaborating with the Office for Disarmament Affairs on the Annual Professional Development Day for teachers.

F. Observances of international days

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

83. In April 2017, the United Nations information centres in Tehran and Tokyo translated the message of the Secretary-General on the Day into Persian and Japanese respectively, distributing the material across their respective traditional and social media outlets. The United Nations information centre in Manama gave an interview to Al Aan TV of the United Arab Emirates about the Day and the work of the United Nations on mine awareness and assistance in mine action.

84. In May 2017, United Nations information centre in Tehran jointly with a local non-profit Iran Mine Action Centre organized a seminar on assistance in mine action entitled "The mine: an obstacle to development", at which government officials, including the Minister of Defense, spoke on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

85. In August 2016, the Department jointly with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, observed the International Day Against Nuclear Tests at United Nations Headquarters in New York, focusing on the theme "Strengthening the Global Norms Against Nuclear Tests — CTBT@20". The event, comprising of an informal meeting of the General Assembly and a high-level expert panel, sought to showcase the international efforts of the United Nations and other stakeholders, including Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, youth networks and the media, in informing and educating on the importance of the nuclear weapon test ban treaty with the aim of achieving worldwide security. The Department worked with the Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote the Day and the informal meeting of the General Assembly; and updated the website.

86. In August 2017, the United Nations information service in Vienna helped promote a CTBTO event at the Vienna International Centre to mark the Day that included an OmniGlobe interactive display of the International Monitoring System; an exhibit featuring panels on the history of the Semipalatinsk test site, which was provided by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in Vienna; and CTBTO information stands.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

87. To mark the Day, the United Nations information centre in Tokyo, jointly with the Network for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, a local non-governmental organization, hosted an event in September 2016 to highlight the importance of global nuclear disarmament that included a screening of *Aogiri*, a film based on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. A panel discussion on nuclear non-proliferation followed the screening and included contributions from government representatives, survivors from Hiroshima as well as young people.

International Day of Peace

88. To commemorate the International Day of Peace in September 2017, the United Nations information office in Almaty, together with the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and "Polygon 29 August", a local non-governmental organization, organized a thematic discussion on "Kazakhstan's path to a nuclear-free world". Focusing on nuclear non-proliferation issues, the event provided an opportunity for university students to learn about nuclear non-proliferation from subject matter

experts and share knowledge with their peers as well as participants from government, the diplomatic community and international organizations.

Other activities

89. In addition to observances of International Days, United Nations information centres continued to raise awareness of disarmament and related issues during their ongoing outreach activities.

90. In November 2017, the United Nations information centre in Canberra, together with the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate — International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons — the Austrian Embassy in Canberra and the Australian Red Cross organized a briefing on the status of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The briefing highlighted the legal importance of the Treaty, the key role of civil society in galvanizing support for non-proliferation issues and the humanitarian issues that it galvanized in support of the Treaty.

91. The United Nations information service in Vienna helped promote the "Gebaku No Hi" event — or "Atomic Bomb Awareness" event — at the Vienna International Centre in August 2017, sharing information materials, creating multimedia content and engaging with young people on social media to raise awareness and galvanize support.

92. In March 2017, the United Nations information centre in Khartoum provided media support to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), to organize a press conference to raise awareness on the contribution of the Government of Japan for UNMAS to support Sudan to meet its obligation under the Ottawa Treaty.

93. In June 2016, the United Nations information service in Vienna together with the United Nations Office at Vienna on the "Women in Higher Education for Peace Vienna Forum" to support the participation of women in peace-related decision-making processes, including on issues of disarmament and non-proliferation. Providing strategic communications advice and media support, the Service helped generate support and media coverage to an event that brought together more than 500 participants from around the world. The United Nations information service also worked with the United Nations Office at Vienna to co-organize a series of conversations with young people on the topic of "Ending nuclear tests: why should I care?" and promoted the "Women Scholarship for Peace: Global South", contributing to the education modules of the Scholarship with a video.

94. At a student debate and dialogue during the Hiroshima Junior International Forum in August 2016, the United Nations information centre in Tokyo briefed more than 600 students from Japan and abroad on issues related to global peace and disarmament. The event culminated with young people presenting a "Hiroshima Declaration" for world peace and sustainable development.

G. Other activities

Exhibits

95. The Department hosts an annual exhibit in New York in commemoration of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, organized by UNMAS. In April 2017, the theme of the exhibit was "20 Years of Mine Action Service" and the theme for April 2018 was "Advancing Protection, Peace and Development".

96. The Department's United Nations information service in Vienna hosted several visits by Japanese Ministers to view the exhibition "Towards a World Free of Nuclear

Weapons" at the Vienna International Centre, installed in 2014 in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Japan and the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese Foreign Minister visited in May 2017, during his attendance of the Preparatory Committee session for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. His successor visited in February 2018. Both visits were covered by Japanese news media and documented on social media channels of the United Nations Information Service in Vienna. Japan's State Minister for the Environment visited the exhibit in May 2018.

97. In cooperation with the Office, in August 2016, the Department's United Nations information centre in Tokyo produced two sets of poster panels to exhibit the 12 winning posters from the United Nations Poster for Peace Contest. The posters were exhibited in the Peace Boat which departed from Yokohama in August and travelled the world promoting peace issues, including the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation.

VI. Looking forward

98. The Disarmament Information Programme will continue support the Secretary-General and the High Representative in their efforts to make effective use of the resources available to be the locus of information about arms control and disarmament, and its dissemination, to educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action in this area in a factual, balanced and objective manner.

99. The Programme envisages carrying out a diverse portfolio of activities including the continuation of serial and ad hoc publications: updating and improving its website and social media presence; continuing its podcast series entitled *Disarmament Today*, supporting and promoting exhibits, conferences, and events — especially those in collaboration with Member States; facilitating the participation of civil society in disarmament-related meetings and conferences; and outreach to the general public both directly and through the media.

Annex

Status of the voluntary trust fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

I. Interim statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017[a]

	31 December 2017	*31 December 2016*
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	49 885	128 652
Investments	444 238	227 786
Voluntary contributions receivable	–	–
Other receivables	–	–
Total current assets	**494 123**	**356 438**
Non-current assets		
Investments	139 439	109 684
Other assets	–	–
Total non-current assets	**139 439**	**109 684**
Total assets	**633 562**	**466 122**
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued payables	5 995	2 170
Employee benefits liabilities	–	–
Total current liabilities	**5 995**	**2 170**
Non-current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued payables	–	–
Employee benefits liabilities	–	–
Total non-current liabilities	**–**	**–**
Total liabilities	**5 995**	**2 170**
Total assets and liabilities	**627 567**	**463 952**
Net assets		
Accumulated surplus	627 567	463 952
Total net assets	**627 567**	**463 952**

II. Interim statement of financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2017[a]

	2017	*2016*
Revenue		
Voluntary contributions[b]	184 482	7 100
Investment revenue	6 313	4 208
Other exchange revenue	–	–
Total revenue	**190 795**	**11 308**
Expenses		
Employee salaries, allowances and benefits	–	–
Non-employee compensation and allowances	11 997	–
Grants and other transfers	–	–
Supplies and consumables	–	741
Travel	–	–
Other operating expenses	15 183	24 911
Other expenses	–	–
Total expenses	**27 180**	**25 652**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**163 615**	**(14 344)**

III. Interim statement of changes in net assets for the year ended 31 December 2017[a]

	Net assets
Net assets as at 31 December 2016	**463 952**
Change in net assets	
Surplus for the year	163 615
Total changes in net assets	**163 615**
Net assets as at 31 December 2017	**627 567**

[a] The statements were prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[b] Includes monetary contributions, contributions in-kind, transfers and refunds to donors.
2016 — Netherlands, Thailand.
2017 — Thailand, Singapore, private donor.

United Nations A/73/121

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 25 (b) of the preliminary list*
Eradication of poverty and other development issues: industrial development cooperation

Industrial development cooperation

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/242.

* A/73/50.

18-10915 (E) 130718

Please recycle

Report of the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

I. Industrial development in review

A. Introduction

1. The previous two reports on industrial development cooperation (A/69/331 and A/71/264) highlighted the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrial development for poverty eradication, shared prosperity and the fight against climate change and other environmental damage. The statistical review contained in those reports presented clear evidence of the positive impact of manufacturing on poverty eradication, employment and inclusiveness.

2. Today, support for inclusive and sustainable industrial development as a driver of inclusive growth and sustainable development, as explicitly recognized in Goal 9 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is even stronger than it was two years ago.

3. The 2030 Agenda mainstreams the three dimensions of sustainable development and lays the foundation for a renewed global effort to promote structural transformation and industrialization. Section II of the previous report outlined the close interlinkages between inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report provides a summary of the interlinkages based on reporting by member States to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

4. In addition, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development underlines the critical importance of industrial development for developing countries, as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification and value addition (General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex, para. 15). The landmark Paris Agreement on climate change also directly links industry with efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its negative effects. Also, at the regional level, several calls for action on industrialization have been made, including in the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want of the African Union.

5. Since the submission of the previous report, the General Assembly underlined the need for the African continent to take urgent action on inclusive and sustainable industrialization in resolution 70/293 on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025).

6. In its resolution 69/235, the General Assembly recognizes the unique mandate and important contribution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and encourages the Organization to continue linking its actions to support countries in realizing their industrial development aspirations with increased efforts to ensure inclusiveness as well as the environmental sustainability of industry. UNIDO continues to further refine its tools, programmes and structures to better support the implementation of the new universal framework for sustainable development.

B. Recent trends in industrial development

7. Since the beginning of the century, rapid growth in manufacturing has been a major source of poverty reduction in many countries through employment creation and income generation. Following a sharp drop in 2009 due to the global economic and financial crises, world manufacturing value added has recovered in both

industrialized and industrializing economies, with much of that growth emanating from developing countries.

8. Since the previous report in 2016, manufacturing growth has improved significantly in various regions. In 2017, world manufacturing value added reached an all-time high of $12,864 billion (at 2010 constant prices).

9. Even though the number of jobs created by manufacturing may have fallen in some countries and increased in others because of the geographical dislocation of manufacturing activities, overall employment in manufacturing worldwide has been rising.

10. Improved industrial performance in production, employment and technology has contributed significantly to the reduction of global poverty. The share of the world population living in absolute poverty has dropped below 10 per cent. In the past two years, the industrialized economies gradually emerged from the prolonged recession that followed the economic crisis in 2008–2009.

11. Also in the industrialized countries, a notable shift in the perception of the role of manufacturing in the economy has been observed, as they adopted new industrial policies focused primarily on promoting domestic production.

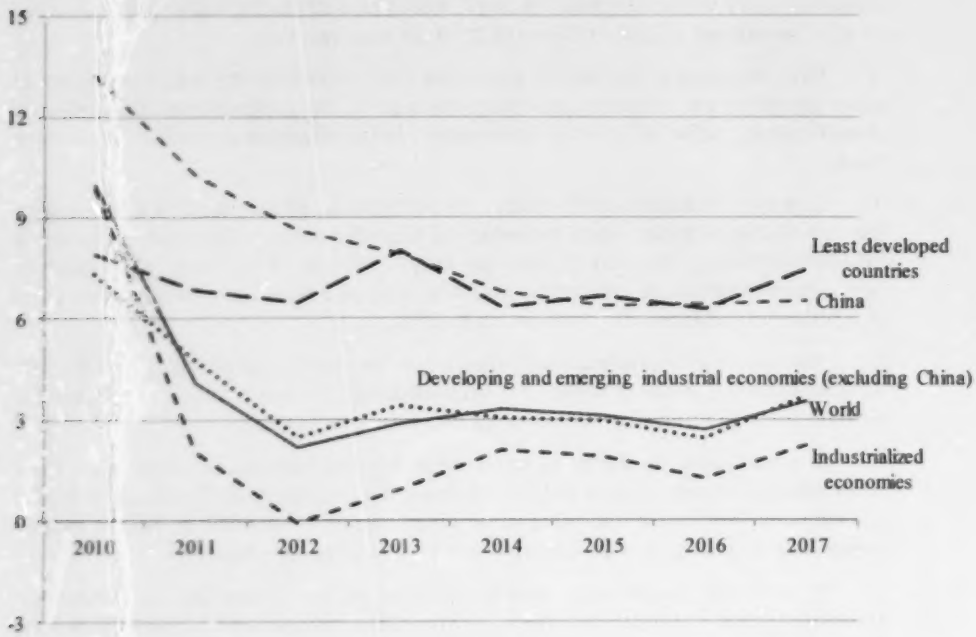
12. In recent years, the declining trend in global manufacturing observed in the early years after 2010 was reversed and a breakthrough was made in 2017 with much higher growth rates. World manufacturing value added rose by 3.5 per cent in 2017, a notable improvement from a growth rate of 2.7 per cent in 2016 (see figure I).

13. A recovery process was widely observed in the industrialized economies, especially in the European countries. A favourable business environment, including the financial sector, lower energy costs and the stabilization of commodity prices had a positive effect on global manufacturing.

14. Growth in manufacturing value added in 2017 was the highest recorded in the industrialized economies since 2011. Renewed manufacturing growth in the industrialized economies is likely to have a positive bearing at the global level, especially on the developing economies. It has been observed that the economic rise and downturn in industrialized countries has an impact on developing countries, transmitted through commodity exchange, foreign direct investment and remittances.

15. The manufacturing value added of the developing and emerging industrial economies rose by 3.7 per cent in 2017. China, which has emerged as the largest manufacturer in the world, has maintained relatively high growth in recent years. In 2017, growth in manufacturing value added in the least developed countries also improved. However, disaggregated data indicates that the least developed countries in Asia showed much higher growth rates than the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Figure I
Annual growth of manufacturing value added, by country group, 2010–2017
(Percentage change in 2010 constant United States dollars)

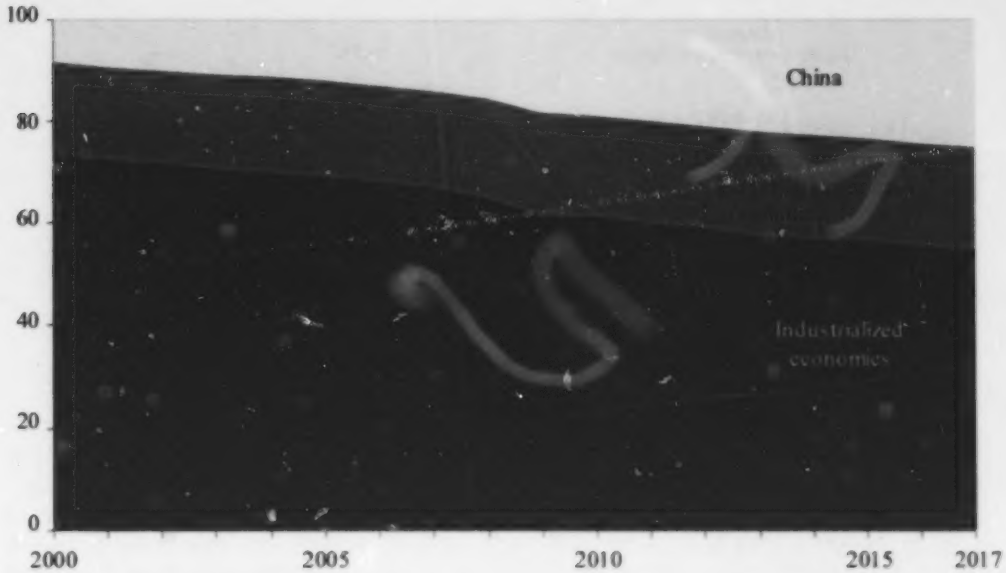


Source: UNIDO statistical database.

16. Owing to the higher growth performance of manufacturing value added, developing countries have significantly raised their share in global industrial production. At the beginning of 2018, industrialized countries accounted for almost three quarters of global industrial production. The share of developing countries (including China) increased from 26.4 per cent in 2000 to 44.9 per cent in 2017. China made the biggest contribution to this increase and accounts for almost one quarter of global manufacturing value added. As more countries industrialize, the current distinction between developing and industrialized economies will gradually disappear and the share of industrialized economies in global industrial production can be expected to rise consistently.

17. The main challenge to such prospects is posed, however, by the large number of countries that still have least developed country status. With almost 13 per cent of the world population, the least developed countries produce less than 1 per cent of global manufacturing value added. Moreover, the gap between the manufacturing value added per capita of the least developed countries and that of the industrialized economies has increased by almost 40 per cent since 1990, indicating a decline of relative productivity of the least developed countries vis-à-vis the industrialized economies. There is therefore a need for collective efforts by the international community to enhance the production capabilities of the least developed countries so as to bring them into the development mainstream.

Figure II
Distribution of world manufacturing value added, by country group, 2000–2017
(Percentage)



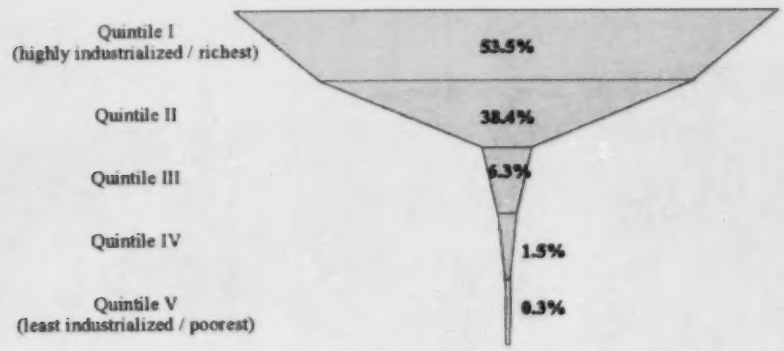
Source: UNIDO statistical database.

18. One of the biggest challenges of the global industrialization process is the uneven distribution of manufacturing output among the nations. Emerging industrial economies together with industrialized economies account for a very large portion (more than 90 per cent) of global manufacturing value added. This portrays a fragile picture (see figure III) of world manufacturing. Concentration of most resources in a few countries raises the dependence and vulnerability of the global economy and threatens sustainable industrialization. The collapse of even a few large firms may have a catastrophic impact on the economy far beyond national borders.

19. In order to expand the base of the global economy and to limit the potential impact of such an economic shock on the market at large, in the present context of a globalized world, it is essential that the capacity of production of goods and services in low-income countries is expanded and that their dependence on external factors, such as investment in capital goods and exports, is gradually reduced.

20. Effective policy interventions and financial support from development partners are required to reduce the inequality among nations. An important measure in this regard is the implementation of target 9.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for increasing the access of small-scale industries to financial services and their integration into global value chains and markets.

Figure III
Inequality of manufacturing value added among nations, 2017
(Share in global manufacturing value added (percentage), per quintile)



Source: UNIDO statistical database.

21. As countries advance and reach a post-industrial level of development, they diversify their economic activities in order to satisfy the increasing needs of high-income households in services, resulting in a gradual decline in the share of manufacturing in gross domestic product (GDP). Statistics indicate, however, that in recent years the share of manufacturing in GDP is falling in the least developed countries in Africa, indicating premature deindustrialization.

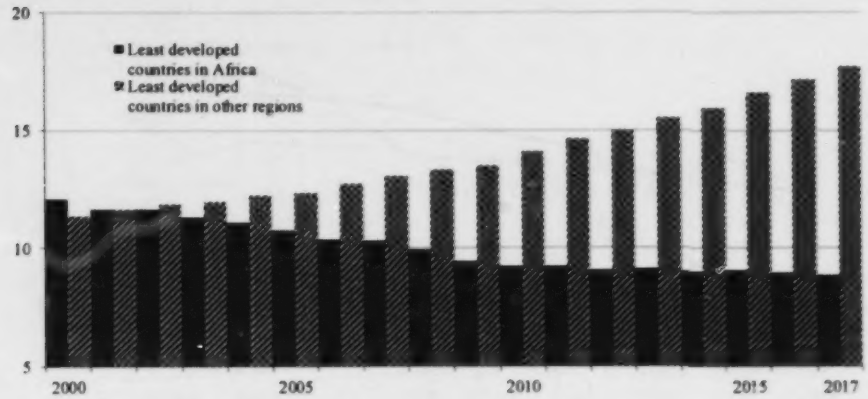
22. In the least developed countries in Africa, the share of manufacturing in GDP has dropped below 10 per cent since 2007. During the same period, the contribution of manufacturing to the economies in the least developed countries in other regions, especially in Asia, has increased significantly.

23. Target 9.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to double the share of industry in GDP in the least developed countries. The observed trends in the least developed countries in Africa are thus an alert to the international community and raise concerns that this target may not be achievable unless a multifaceted campaign, including a targeted investment programme in industrialization, is launched.

24. On the other hand, weak industrialization is one reason why sub-Saharan countries have a low capacity to absorb surplus labour. High rates of unemployment have triggered mass emigration and the radicalization of young people, causing serious social problems that threaten peace and political stability in the region. Figure IV shows the diverging trends of industrialization in the least developed countries in Africa and elsewhere.

Figure IV
Share of manufacturing value added in GDP in the least developed countries, 2000–2017

(Percentage at constant 2010 United States dollars)



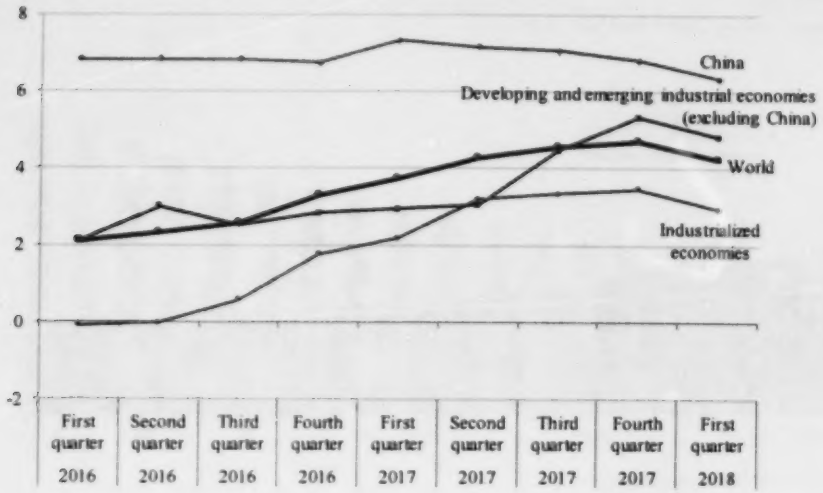
Source: UNIDO statistical database.

25. While manufacturing growth reached its highest level in 2017, world exports of merchandise trade have decreased in recent years. Manufacturing products account for almost three quarters of merchandise exports globally. Exports of manufactured goods dropped in 2016 and 2017 compared with previous years in major country groups, as well as in China.

26. The decline in trade is caused by falling commodity prices, including fuel prices. Recent developments concerning transatlantic tariffs are expected to further adversely affect the commodity exchange among industrialized economies.

27. At a time when the world has just recovered from a prolonged recession, any drastic change in established trade arrangements is likely to have a negative impact on global manufacturing. The first concerning signs are already showing in the deceleration of manufacturing output growth in the first quarter of 2018, which was lower than in the last quarter of 2017 in industrialized economies, China and developing and emerging industrial economies (see figure V). In view of this development, countries might need to adopt an efficient policy mechanism to sustain growth from the impending risk of another downturn.

Figure V
Quarterly growth of manufacturing output by country group, 2016–2018
(As a percentage compared with the same period of the preceding year)



Source: UNIDO statistical database.

C. Conclusions on recent trends in industrial development

28. The positive relationship between manufacturing (as measured by manufacturing value added) and economic performance (GDP) in developing countries continues to underscore the importance of industrial transformation as the main engine of economic growth.

29. In addition to its contribution to production, exports, income, employment and poverty reduction, manufacturing contributes significantly to innovation and technological upgrading.

30. Owing to the continuous rise of productivity and competitiveness, new and sophisticated manufactured products have become accessible to a large number of households not only in industrialized but also in developing countries.

31. Manufacturing has changed the way that people communicate, receive basic information and entertain. Household appliances, such as washing machines, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners, have significantly eased the burden of household work, allowing more time to be spent on productive activities outside the home.

32. Manufacturing has contributed to deep structural changes. The average growth of high-tech products in recent years is higher than in other sectors, indicating a gradual shift of manufacturing activities to high-tech products.

33. In summary, global manufacturing is on the rise: it is creating more wealth and opportunities, generating employment and thereby preventing households from falling into poverty. However, its growth path has varied for different economies and therefore requires the utmost attention of policymakers and international development partners.

34. The Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 9, offer the relevant global agenda for industrialization. Financing industrial development has been one of the main challenges in the aftermath of the recent recession, which entailed a significant decrease in foreign direct investment in developing countries. Such a global challenge requires a global response.

II. Industrial development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the Sustainable Development Goals

35. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, UNIDO member States have reported on an annual basis through the President of the Industrial Development Board to the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the contribution of UNIDO to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the industry-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

36. The high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 was particularly important for UNIDO as it featured the first in-depth review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and included a review of Goal 9. In response to the invitation of the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Industrial Development Board submitted a substantive input document in April 2017.[1]

37. For the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, member States prepared an input document entitled "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: using synergies of sustainable energy systems and inclusive, sustainable industrial development that leaves no one behind", focusing on the contribution of inclusive and sustainable industrialization to the achievement of Goal 7.[2]

38. The submission highlighted that rapid industrialization has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the past decades by providing them with jobs and income, but that progress has been uneven, with many remaining stuck in a poverty trap, particularly in areas where industrialization levels have remained low or have stagnated. This shows how inclusive and sustainable industrial development is key to poverty reduction efforts and ensuring that no one is left behind by 2030.

39. The achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrialization (Goal 9) enables sustained economic growth and the creation of decent jobs (Goal 8). It helps to reduce poverty (Goal 1), hunger (Goal 2) and inequalities (Goals 5 and 10), while improving health and well-being (Goal 3), increasing resource and energy efficiency (Goals 6, 7, 11 and 12) and reducing greenhouse gas and other polluting emissions, including from chemicals (Goals 13, 14 and 15).

40. UNIDO, as the only entity of the United Nations mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, has extensive knowledge and technical experience in these areas. The Organization realizes its mandate by designing and implementing industrial policies, enhancing local productive capacities and entrepreneurship, contributing to job creation, advancing economic competitiveness and enabling market access, advancing the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and practices in production systems and partnering with the private and public sectors to mobilize investments in an inclusive, sustainable and resilient manner.

---

[1] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/14570Industrial_Development_Board_of_UNIDO.pdf.

[2] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18173IDB_input_to_HLPF_2018.pdf.

41. In the submission to the high-level political forum, the member States call for partnerships of host country governments, international donors, United Nations agencies, financial institutions and the private sector to mobilize private and public investments (including official development assistance) around a long-term inclusive and sustainable industrialization plan to build export-oriented and job-creating industrial capacity. They recommend designing and implementing industrial policies that promote employment, reduce poverty and comply with local and international standards (for example, related to product quality, labour and the environment) to facilitate integration into global value chains and to make industrialization inclusive and sustainable. They call for technical cooperation services for capacity-building and vocational and other training, especially for women and young people and, where possible, in partnership with the private sector. Public and private sector, domestic and foreign investments in research and development, innovation, education, training and infrastructure should be increased to improve competitiveness. Industrialization that encourages employment instead of displacement should be promoted.

42. With the proper policy framework and international cooperation in place, the benefits of economic development and technological progress, including the new industrial revolution, can be shared more widely.

B. Harnessing the potential of the new industrial revolution for sustainable development

43. The new industrial revolution, also known as the next production revolution, the fourth industrial revolution, or Industry 4.0, refers to the growing application of digital technologies at any stage of industrial production, from conceptualization to product design, manufacturing, distribution and recycling.

44. Emerging technologies that are associated with this paradigm include robotics, big data, augmented reality, additive manufacturing (3D printing), cloud computing, the Internet of things, networked sensors and actuators, and artificial intelligence.

45. The interconnection and integration of the digital and real worlds, even across great distances, is likely to transform industries. And while the consequences of the new industrial revolution remain uncertain today, it is expected that it will change how manufacturers, economic sectors and even countries integrate within global value chains in the near future.

46. The technologies of the new industrial revolution have the potential to improve the flexibility and efficiency of production processes, optimize decision-making and enable greater product customization.

47. Significant productivity gains are likely to result from improved process flexibility, adaptability and efficiency. New technologies are poised to increase the ability of industrial firms to manage, process and analyse enormous amounts of data in real time, leading to the emergence of customizable "smart" production systems.

48. The new industrial revolution also has the potential to increase energy and resource efficiency and further the transition to a circular economy. Taken together, these developments are likely to lead to the emergence of more sustainable production and consumption patterns.

49. The area in which the most significant concerns about digitization are raised is employment. In recent years, a strand of studies has argued that technological change — and particularly greater automation — is likely have a profound and negative impact on employment in developing and emerging economies.

50. The literature, however, has not reached a consensus on the likely impact of Industry 4.0 on the future of work, as many of the studies that see a negative impact on employment take technical feasibility, rather than economic rationality, as the primary criterion driving the substitution of labour. Yet other studies suggest that several indirect mechanisms can compensate for the negative direct employment effects of new technologies.

51. Increased automation is also not expected to affect all sectors equally. While sectors such as electronics and machinery are increasingly being automated, other more traditional and skilled labour-intensive activities, such as the manufacturing of garments and shoes, have seen minimal automation so far. That is because automation makes more economic sense in some sectors than in others.

52. Different risks also exist with regard to the nature of employment. With routine, low-skill functions being arguably more susceptible to automation, the demand for skills may be expected to shift towards more knowledge-intensive occupations. As a result, educational requirements may change, with new technologies generating greater demand for workers with higher levels of skills and education.

53. Given these varied considerations, the net impact of new technologies on employment remains a matter for empirical investigation. Moreover, as noted above, the adoption of automation in developing economies remains extremely limited.

54. The impact of the new industrial revolution on international trade and production remains even more a matter of speculation. Some observers have suggested that a reshoring or repatriation may take place, namely that multinational corporations may increasingly relocate production activities closer to their home market owing to the availability of new, relatively inexpensive technologies — such as robotics and 3D printing — supported by superior infrastructure, eventually eroding the competitive advantage of lower-wage countries. A recent study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on reshoring, however, finds little evidence that relocation is a widespread phenomenon.[3]

55. On the contrary, recent research finds that there are significant potential benefits for smaller companies in developing countries, especially in the light of better connectivity and the spread of e-commerce, as well as innovative channels to access finance, labour, inputs and production services, customer service, sales channels and marketing.

56. Furthermore, the increasing domestic demand in emerging industrial countries, as a result of the growth of a middle class, suggests that these are important customer bases, not unlike industrialized countries. Provided that infrastructure is put in place, production may therefore continue clustering in developing countries, rather than relocating to industrialized economies.

57. At present, the trends of the new industrial revolution are more likely to become a reality in the industrialized countries that are close to the technological frontier, such as Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, but are also being seen in emerging industrial countries such as China.

58. At the same time, however, a growing number of players, including emerging economies, are adopting advanced manufacturing processes, even in areas traditionally reserved for highly industrialized countries. One example is the

[3] De Backer, K. and others, "Reshoring: myth or reality?", OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers, No. 27 (Paris, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2016).

aerospace sector, in which several middle-income countries have endeavoured to gain a presence in specific segments of the global market.

59. As efforts are made to understand the opportunities and threats that the frontier technologies present, the real extent of the possible consequences of the new industrial revolution remains to be seen. It possesses transformative yet disruptive potential and raises serious ethical concerns. In the absence of adequate normative and regulatory frameworks, and given the need to ensure that the social benefits are shared and destabilizing risks are minimized, the United Nations and its specialized agencies have a special role and responsibility.

60. It is important for the United Nations system and its specialized agencies to continue working closely on the matter, identifying and prioritizing technologies; strengthening capacities; enhancing decision-making tools and information; assessing the feasibility of technology; supporting environments that enable local governments to incorporate adaptation to new technologies; and increasing access to financing.

61. The United Nations system and its specialized agencies need to ensure that the opportunities are taken to benefit the realization of the 2030 Agenda and that inequalities are not exacerbated. Countries with low technological capabilities, in particular the least developed countries, risk being marginalized and need support, particularly regarding suitable industrial policy frameworks.

62. Given the important role of the industrial sector in the development, application and dissemination of new technologies, UNIDO, as the central coordinator of industrial development in the United Nations system, bears a special responsibility for supporting Member States in that regard.

C. Repositioning of the United Nations development system

63. In its resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, adopted in December 2016, the General Assembly launched the ambitious but necessary plan for the reform of the United Nations to deliver effective support to countries for sustainable, equitable and accountable development under national ownership and leadership. It aimed at providing guidance for the United Nations development system in full alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted in 2015.

64. Two years on, the reform encompasses three tracks for the United Nations to deliver better through: (a) development system reform; (b) management reform; and (c) reform of the peace and security pillar. UNIDO has actively participated in various activities related to these reforms.

65. In June 2017, the findings of the mapping exercise to produce a system-wide outline of functions and capacities of the United Nations development system (known as the "Dahlberg Report") and the launch of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet" (A/72/684-E/2018/7) revealed that the development system had yet to transition to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

66. The report identified significant gaps in the thematic coverage of Sustainable Development Goals, which were particularly evident in the "new" Goals relating to economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It found that Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), as well as the Goals relating to water,

energy and the environment (Goals 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15) were underfunded and underimplemented.

67. This finding draws attention to the need for the development system to ensure that the three core elements of sustainable development — the economic, social and environmental dimensions — are balanced. As the present report and previous reports on industrial development cooperation demonstrate, structural transformation and the economic dimension are essential for development transformation, particularly for the least developing countries and economies in transition.

68. At the end of 2017, the Secretary-General, in his report entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet" (A/72/684-E/2018/7), highlighted seven transformations with the aim of ensuring delivery on the goals contained in the 2030 Agenda and the pledge to leave no one behind for the people that the United Nations serves:

(a) A system-wide strategic document as a strategic tool to guide and accelerate alignment with the 2030 Agenda, focused on concrete actions;

(b) A new generation of United Nations country teams that are demand-driven and tailored to meet the specific development priorities and needs of countries;

(c) An impartial, independent and empowered resident coordinator system, establishing a development-focused United Nations country-level team with stronger capacity, accountability and impartiality;

(d) A coordinated, reprofiled and restructured regional approach for better cohesion and coordination at the regional level;

(e) The strengthening of horizontal governance and system-wide transparency and evaluation;

(f) The strengthening of United Nations partnerships and South-South cooperation;

(g) A funding compact aimed at setting out mutual commitments to foster investments in the United Nations system towards stronger funding mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda.

69. The reform of the United Nations development system provides an opportunity for the system to "get it right", as it progresses towards a reinvigorated resident coordinator system within the new generation of country teams. The elements of impartiality and independence play an important role, as they should enable the outreach and representation of the entire family of the United Nations development system, including its specialized agencies, regardless of their size or local presence in the field (that is, including non-resident agencies).

70. Another area in which UNIDO sees opportunities for the development system to progress innovatively is the new industrial revolution that is gaining momentum and transforming economies, countries and societies around the globe. As subsection B above shows, the fourth industrial revolution is bringing connectivity and a higher level of automation to manufacturing and other areas, including health, skills and education.

71. The United Nations must take advantage of such emerging opportunities to ensure that Member States, in particular developing countries, are not left behind with respect to innovation and progress. UNIDO is of the view that the appropriate strategies and approaches can create opportunities for developing countries to rapidly catch up. While there is no unique path to development and no "one size fits all" solution, the Organization may use appropriate analysis tools to help identify patterns

of industrialization that inform industrial policies to absorb innovation and support green growth for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

72. While it is necessary for UNIDO to prioritize its interventions, given its size, capacity and funding situation, there are new and welcome opportunities for the United Nations development system to work in a more coordinated manner. This should lead to stronger cooperation among the different United Nations entities. It is clear that the call for more predictable funding for the United Nations system must be accompanied by higher value added for Member States.

III. Response of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

A. Introduction

73. Based on the Lima Declaration (see GC.15/INF/4, resolution GC.15/Res.1), in which the General Conference reaffirmed the unique role of the Organization as the central coordinator of international cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the United Nations system, UNIDO is well positioned to fulfil its mandate of supporting member States in their efforts to achieve the industry-related Sustainable Development Goals.

74. This vision for UNIDO is amplified by the global mandate of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes inclusive and sustainable industrial development as a major driver of sustainable development, for example, in Goal 9. The renewed momentum of industrial development cooperation comes at a time of persisting poverty, humanitarian crises, a volatile global economic environment, growing inequalities, a changing climate, environmental degradation and the advent of a new technological revolution.

75. While the success of the 2030 Agenda depends on the actions of each individual Member State, there is an indisputable role for the United Nations, and a need for specialized agencies such as UNIDO to support them in their efforts. Neither governments nor the private sector can solve the wide-ranging challenges of today alone. UNIDO acts as the platform for industrial development cooperation and helps to expand and diversify manufacturing value added, enhance domestic entrepreneurial and technological capabilities and competitiveness, and improve equality and access to decent jobs, while reducing the environmental impact.

76. The strategic priorities and programmatic objectives of the Organization are defined in the medium-term programme framework. With the recent adoption of the framework for the period 2018–2021, the planning cycle of UNIDO has been aligned with the cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (see IDB.45/8/Add.2-PBC.33/8). The new framework also highlights more clearly the theory of change that links the results of UNIDO with the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective for the next four years is to scale up the results of UNIDO interventions and to better integrate the four core functions: technical cooperation; analytical and research functions and policy advice; normative functions, including standards and quality-related activities; and convening and partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer, networking and industrial cooperation.

77. The strategic focus of UNIDO continues to include the three existing priorities: creating shared prosperity; advancing economic competitiveness; and safeguarding the environment. With the introduction of a fourth strategic priority on strengthening knowledge and institutions, a critical outcome and enabler of higher-level results is being elevated to the strategic priority level.

78. The Organization aligns itself with all relevant United Nations system-wide initiatives and coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and national levels, including all those emanating from General Assembly resolutions on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, most recently resolution 72/279.

79. Working partnerships are established with most organizations of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Trade Organization and the institutions of the World Bank Group.

80. Moreover, UNIDO broadened its engagement with international and regional development banks, regional economic and political organizations, and a wide range of private sector partners. Following UNIDO engagement with the Group of 20 (G20) in 2016, notably through the report entitled "Industrialization in Africa and least developed countries: boosting growth, creating jobs, promoting inclusiveness and sustainability", prepared for the G20 Development Working Group, UNIDO continued to contribute to G20 deliberations on Africa and industrialization in 2017. In the context of its cooperation with OECD, UNIDO contributed analysis on the role of Industry 4.0 to a report by OECD for the G20 that examines the opportunities and challenges of the next production revolution. UNIDO also continued to strengthen its cooperation with Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS group), so as to promote industrial development cooperation in those five major emerging economies.

81. Given its long-standing mandate to maintain worldwide industrial statistics and its unique role within the international statistics system, in 2016 the United Nations Statistical Commission appointed UNIDO as a custodian agency for six industry-related indicators under Goal 9. In that role, UNIDO provides data for the global database of Sustainable Development Goal indicators and contributed to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017*. In addition to its participation in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, UNIDO maintains direct contact with national statistical offices and international agencies concerning the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. To address limited data availability, UNIDO intends to support further enhanced collection, processing and dissemination of data related to small industrial enterprises in developing countries.

82. The sections below provide a selective but balanced overview of the contribution of UNIDO to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

B. Creating shared prosperity

83. Despite notable progress in some countries, poverty remains the greatest global challenge. Gains of economic progress have not been evenly spread. The majority of the world's poor continue to live in rural areas, lacking basic infrastructure and gainful employment, with women and young people often disproportionately affected. A lack of socioeconomic development also reduces resilience to external shocks and to natural crises and conflicts.

84. UNIDO employs its long-standing expertise in improving agro-industrial value chains, focusing on adding value to agricultural production by strengthening the linkages between agriculture, industry and markets, including the upgrading of food processing technologies and skills, the promotion of food safety and the reduction of post-harvest losses. UNIDO supports light manufacturing to help raise both productivity and incomes, in particular through support for small and medium-sized enterprises and by increasing the participation of women and young people in productive and entrepreneurial activities. Through these interventions, complemented by its post-crisis and human security programmes, UNIDO is fostering inclusive and sustainable growth, allowing the benefits of prosperity to be shared more equally and supporting progress towards achieving Goal 1 and related goals.

85. The integration of women into higher-skilled and better-paying productive activities remains a priority in many UNIDO interventions. Through a broad range of job creation and entrepreneurship initiatives, UNIDO helps to give women and young people the tools to grasp economic opportunities. The Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme, for example, lays the groundwork for the development of a sustainable dynamic private sector in over a dozen of countries where over 2 million young women and men have studied entrepreneurship based on the UNIDO-supported curriculum.

86. To support developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, UNIDO continues to facilitate the strengthening of agro-industrial capacities and technological upgrading along agro-industrial value chains, from the farm level to final consumption. In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as part of the African Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative, UNIDO is continuing to focus in particular on African countries in value chain development, the promotion of agribusiness investment and agro-enterprise development.

87. UNIDO has been providing direct assistance to many developing countries to support the establishment of industrial estates, and has published over a hundred studies, guidelines and specifications in that regard. In the past few years, UNIDO has helped a number of countries to set up sustainable agribusiness value chains and integrated agro-industrial parks covering food and food systems, leather and footwear, textile and garments, wood and woodworking, agro-mechanization and creative industries.

88. The Organization's post-crisis assistance is focused on activities that foster economic recovery, rehabilitate damaged agricultural or industrial infrastructure, restore the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises, raise skills for greater employability and create employment opportunities, thus contributing to the stabilization of communities.

C. Advancing economic competitiveness

89. Unemployment, young people living from subsistence agriculture, the informal economy, rising inequalities, urbanization and rapid technological change reaching all disciplines are among the greatest challenges facing the world today.

90. UNIDO attempts to meet those challenges by supporting the creation of a business environment that promotes the development of markets and product quality; encourages competition and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises; reduces transaction costs and risks; addresses the informal economy and social exclusion; provides modern business infrastructure, utilities and business support services for skill upgrading and entrepreneurship; attracts impact investment; and stimulates innovation, technological learning and upgrading of firms.

91. Through tailor-made programmes promoting the establishment of a favourable business environment, trade capacity-building for global value chain integration, impact investment, innovation system approaches, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and clusters, entrepreneurship and industrial upgrading, UNIDO assists developing countries in creating decent jobs, attracting investment and adopting new innovative technologies.

92. UNIDO emphasizes stakeholder engagement at all stages: policy formulation, investment and technology promotion, providing advice on the strengthening of sustainable business and good-quality infrastructure, providing conformity assessment services, supporting the private sector in achieving compliance with various international standards and investing with a social, environmental and economic impact. The UNIDO network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices provides value added services to entrepreneurs and institutions seeking international industrial alliances and acts as a platform for public and private stakeholders to establish collaborative links between developed and developing countries.

93. UNIDO also provides programmes and tools for capacity-building of governments and institutions on setting up strategic policy and regulatory frameworks that nurture entrepreneurship, the formal economy, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and clusters, and quality compliance. During the reporting period, UNIDO issued several policy guidance publications, including the 2017 edition of the Trade Capacity-Building Resource Guide, strategic frameworks for leveraging a new generation of industrial parks and zones for inclusive and sustainable development and a methodological guide on industrial upgrading.

94. UNIDO programmes and tools are also used for promoting sectoral and firm-level industrial upgrading, such as in the automotive, textile and apparel, agro-food processing, leather, cement and pharmaceutical sectors. In addition to the partnership with the African Union to accelerate the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, UNIDO embarked on a regional initiative in collaboration with the West African Health Organization to develop the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in the Economic Community of West African States.

D. Safeguarding the environment

95. The need to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation is unquestionable as the effects of accelerating climate change and resource depletion continue to alter habitats, threatening livelihoods and ecological sustainability.

96. UNIDO is at the forefront of efforts to build a sustainable system that allows growth while protecting the natural environment and human health. UNIDO assists governments, institutions, and industry to best adapt their production methods, move towards cleaner production systems and develop sustainable, efficient energy solutions. The programmes focus on promoting clean and renewable energies; smart cities and low-carbon transport; fostering energy and resource efficiency and cleaner production; advancing a circular economy; and developing resource stewardship programmes. With expertise built up over decades, the Organization also plays a pivotal role in helping governments meet the requirements of international agreements to phase out ozone-depleting substances and toxic chemicals such as persistent organic pollutants.

97. UNIDO technical cooperation supports the circular economy model by providing solutions to decouple production value chains from the depletion of natural resources and the degradation of the environment. The circular economy approach

increases the resource efficiency of manufacturing processes; facilitates the development, adoption and maintenance of environmentally friendly products; extends the useful lifespan of products; introduces new business models based on reuse, repair and remanufacturing; and enables the sustainable management of waste by industries. Establishing eco-industrial parks and converting existing industrial zones into eco-industrial parks are illustrative of the Organization's approach to promoting a circular economy.

98. The programme on resource efficient and cleaner production has long been an important element in the work of UNIDO on the environment. This flagship initiative builds capacity and supports know-how transfer to cleaner production centres in 51 countries in order to improve resource productivity and environmental performance. Efficiency increases for processes, products and services improve resource productivity and reduce risks to communities and the environment. In conjunction with the programme, the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production acts as a platform to spread and scale up policies and practices on resource efficient and cleaner production.

99. UNIDO also developed a comprehensive approach for the sound and innovative management of chemicals in industry. A core element of the approach is chemical leasing: a circular business model pioneered by UNIDO in developing and transitional economies. It aims at maximizing the utility derived from expensive and hazardous substances in industry while minimizing their cost and environmental impact.

100. The activities of UNIDO under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer have contributed to the phase-out of over a third of ozone-depleting substances from the developing world. UNIDO is assisting industry around the world with the phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and following the Kigali Amendment in October 2016, has also started enabling activities for the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). In addition to eliminating ozone-depleting substances, the Organization seeks and promotes technology options that minimize climate impact. Using 1990 as a baseline, this has avoided the use and potential emission of over 240 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent per year. A large share of these emissions stem from refrigeration and air conditioning systems running with HCFCs and HFCs. Increasingly, UNIDO is also working on green design, better servicing of equipment and improving the energy efficiency of such systems as they are the largest consumers of electric energy.

101. UNIDO is also an important implementing agency of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, helping signatories to the Convention to create national implementation plans to comply with treaty obligations to limit or eliminate persistent organic pollutants, which are highly toxic to humans and wildlife and remain in the environment for long periods. Specifically, UNIDO works to optimize production processes, particularly those related to recycled raw materials, establish new facilities and to set up recycling and waste management programmes.

102. UNIDO also plays an active role in assisting countries in the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a new multilateral environmental agreement that came into force in August 2017. The UNIDO mercury programme has traditionally focused on artisanal and small-scale gold mining. However, over the past five years, UNIDO has showcased its comparative advantage outside this sector by working in areas such reducing mercury use and emissions in several industrial sectors, such as in the production of certain plastics. Efforts in the cement industry have allowed multi-focal approaches to be applied simultaneously in waste incineration and the reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide, mercury and persistent organic pollutants.

103. UNIDO is facilitating the sustainability of the water supply to industries, particularly in water-scarce areas. Sustained water supply is a key requirement for the establishment of almost all industries, but one that is becoming increasingly difficult to fulfil as a result of climate change. Multi-stakeholder approaches combine water savings and better water retention.

104. The concept of a circular economy has become central to the work of UNIDO to safeguard the environment. In addition to introducing the circular economy and its elements through projects, UNIDO is also present in key international forums, undertakes frequent exchanges with the most important stakeholders and provides briefings to member States on the circular economy, in a consultative exchange on this concept and its best practices.

105. The UNIDO renewable energy programme promotes the establishment of mini-grids based on viable and proven technologies, such as small hydropower, biomass and solar energy for local economic development and productive activities in rural areas. The programme further aims to foster domestic value creation within the field of clean energies.

106. The UNIDO industrial energy efficiency programme focuses on policy and standards, building capacity, raising awareness and demonstrating new technologies. It also encourages the implementation of energy management systems based on the energy management standard ISO 50001 and energy system optimization. The UNIDO low-carbon, low-emission clean energy technologies programme provides a comprehensive technology transfer and localization mechanism.

107. The UNIDO flagship programme on clean technology and innovation seeks to accelerate the uptake of innovative climate and clean energy technologies. This is achieved by identifying and fostering small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups with clean technology innovations to refine and enhance their products and business plans and linking them to potential financing and investment channels to scale up their impact.

108. UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly host the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which was set up in 2013 as the operational arm of the Technology Mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Network supports developing countries in adopting clean technologies for pursuing energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient development. It provides technology solutions, capacity-building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries.

109. UNIDO provides technical support for the establishment and operation of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres, an innovative South-South and triangular multi-stakeholder partnership to accelerate the energy and climate transformation in developing countries. UNIDO is the co-organizer of the Vienna Energy Forum, one of the largest and most significant sustainable energy events in the world, which had also contributed to the formulation of the targets for Goal 7. Following a successful forum in 2017, UNIDO organized a special session in May 2018 as a contribution to the forthcoming review of Goal 7 by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018.

E. Strengthening knowledge and institutions

110. As mentioned in paragraph 76 above, the UNIDO medium-term programme framework for the period 2018–2021 includes a new strategic priority on strengthening knowledge and institutions, in addition to the three existing thematic

priorities that represent the dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) as applied to the UNIDO mandate.

111. The new priority captures activities that, to some degree, are already being undertaken by the Organization, either under other strategic priorities, in identified cross-cutting areas, or through its analytical and statistical work. However, by elevating these activities to a higher priority level, UNIDO emphasizes its plan to increase its focus on these activities and the associated development results, to better support countries in their efforts towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

112. In addition, the aim of strengthening knowledge and institutions also prioritizes a wide range of knowledge and institutional support activities that do not fall specifically within the three strategic priorities, but are necessary and instrumental to the advancement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. These activities range from technical cooperation projects to regional programmes, research activities, analytical work and inter-agency or multi-stakeholder coordination undertakings.

113. These activities will include the efforts undertaken by UNIDO in its role as the custodian agency of the targets of Goal 9; input into the Sustainable Development Goal follow-up and review mechanisms; the increased institutional support to member States required as they take greater ownership of their sustainable development strategies; and the analytical work required to address the complexity of the Sustainable Development Goal framework and the associated trade-offs and synergies for development cooperation activities, policies and investments.

114. More specifically, strengthening knowledge and institutions means, among other things:

(a) Advancing the technical, policy and normative knowledge base for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including by extracting relevant data, knowledge and policy recommendations from technical cooperation projects and programmes;

(b) Building the analytical, statistical and reporting capacity on matters related to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, also in the context of the follow-up and review architecture of the Sustainable Development Goals, at the global, regional and national levels;

(c) Facilitating the policy dialogue on issues pertaining to the advancement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, particularly, but not exclusively, in developing and middle-income countries;

(d) Strengthening the Organization's efforts to perform the sector-specific technical and analytical work required in the appraisal phase of large-scale country programmes, including the Programme for Country Partnership;

(e) Strengthening the institutional capacity of the member States of UNIDO for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, facilitating the integration of all services delivered by UNIDO across functions and thematic areas for the provision of long-term development results.

F. UNIDO partnership approaches

115. UNIDO continues to implement its Programme for Country Partnership as a high-impact solution to make inclusive and sustainable industrial development a reality, in Africa and beyond.

116. Progress continued to be made in the implementation of the Programme for Country Partnership in Ethiopia, Senegal and Peru, the first three pilot countries of the Programme. In 2017, UNIDO expanded the model to additional geographical regions to complete the piloting phase. New countries were announced at the seventeenth session of the General Conference, held in November: Cambodia for the Asia and the Pacific region and Kyrgyzstan for Europe and Central Asia. The last pilot country, for the Arab region, was Morocco, announced in early 2018.

117. Building on the lessons learned and the recommendations of an independent midterm evaluation conducted in 2017, UNIDO will gradually roll out the Programme for Country Partnership to more countries. The evaluation confirmed that, through the Programme, UNIDO can play a more prominent role in supporting industrial development in the countries involved in the Programme compared with previous approaches. The evaluation further emphasized the strong commitment and ownership of national governments in the Programme and highlighted the positive feedback from development partners.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

118. Industrialization has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, providing them with jobs and income. The close link between inclusive and sustainable industrial development and long-term economic, social and environmental development remains undeniable.

119. Recent trends in industrial development present both opportunities and challenges for developing and emerging industrial economies. While growth in global manufacturing has improved significantly over the past years, and developing countries have raised their share in global industrial production, manufacturing output is not distributed evenly among nations. Premature deindustrialization is being observed in the least developed countries in Africa. In addition, far-reaching changes in established trade arrangements are likely to have a negative impact on global manufacturing. These trends require the utmost attention of policymakers and the international community.

120. At the same time, the new industrial revolution is likely to transform economies worldwide. Frontier technologies have the potential to improve the flexibility and efficiency of production processes, optimize decision-making, increase energy and resource efficiency and generally lead to more sustainable production and consumption patterns. However, employment and trade are the areas in which the most serious concerns are raised. Current trends in technological progress could further widen inequalities between and within countries, leaving the marginalized and vulnerable further behind.

121. As efforts are made to understand the opportunities and risks of the new industrial revolution, the real extent of its impact remains yet to be seen. It possesses both transformative and disruptive potential. Harnessing the opportunities offered by the new industrial revolution and minimizing its negative externalities will require concerted efforts by the international community through coordination, knowledge-sharing and targeted support.

122. In the absence of adequate normative and regulatory frameworks, the United Nations and its specialized agencies have a moral obligation to support Member States in this transition. Given the important role of the industrial sector in the development, application and dissemination of new technologies, UNIDO, as the central coordinator of industrial development in the United

Nations system, bears a special responsibility for supporting Member States in that regard.

123. **At the same time, the international development system has yet to fully transition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure that the three dimensions of sustainable development are balanced. The reform of the United Nations development system provides an opportunity to enhance impartiality and independence at the field level and to ensure a more balanced approach to sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda and its Goals.**

124. **UNIDO should continue to build upon its long-standing knowledge and technical expertise in its mandated areas of work and its abilities to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships for inclusive and sustainable industrialization. The Organization will pursue the objective of integrating and scaling up its services as a pathway to narrowing many of the widening development gaps that characterize the current global development situation.**

United Nations A/73/122

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 July 2018
English
Original: Arabic/English/
French/Russian/Spanish

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (hh) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report outlines the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

* A/73/50.

18-11002 (E) 120718 250718

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Replies received from Governments	3
	Cuba	3
	Ecuador	4
	Georgia	5
	Lebanon	6
	Madagascar	6
	Mexico	6
	Morocco	7
	Netherlands	8
	Russian Federation	9
	Ukraine	9

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 72/251 on follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, the General Assembly:

(a) Underlined the strong support expressed at its high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons (para. 1);

(b) Called for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament and endorsed the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (paras. 2 and 3);

(c) Also called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons (para. 4);

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on effective nuclear disarmament measures, including elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament (para. 20).

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 6 February 2018 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any views received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 May 2018]

Cuba shares the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. In this regard, Cuba has participated actively in the main multilateral forums at which the topic is considered, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, the conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination and in the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their preparatory committees.

As a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean that created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, part of a region formally proclaimed as a zone of peace, Cuba has called upon nuclear-weapon States and others protected by the so-called nuclear umbrella to fulfil their unequivocal obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Although more than 20 years have gone by since the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

declared the use of nuclear weapons unlawful, very little progress has been made towards the total elimination of such weapons, and nuclear deterrence continues to be a core element of the military defence and security doctrines of some States. It is even more alarming that some States are considering the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

Cuba opposes the enhancement and modernization of existing nuclear weapons, their means of delivery and related infrastructure, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

Cuba constructively supported the General Assembly negotiations which culminated in the approval on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which establishes a legally binding international norm prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, without any exceptions or mitigating circumstances.

On 31 January 2018, Cuba became the fifth State to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as a demonstration of its political will and commitment to a world free from nuclear weapons. Cuba calls for the early entry into force of the Treaty and its universalization. It reaffirms that the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination, in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, within a clearly defined time frame.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

The date 7 July 2017 will go down in the annals of history as a milestone in the quest for universal peace, since on that date a conference convened by the General Assembly adopted a Treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. These weapons, whose devastating consequences for humanity are beyond doubt, will be prohibited by a legally binding universal instrument that will be open for signature by all States. Ecuador actively participated in the process that led to the convening of the negotiating conference for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and in the negotiations that culminated in the approval of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Constitution of Ecuador, within the framework of international relations, promotes peace and universal disarmament and condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and the imposition of military bases or military facilities of States in the territory of other States. It also prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, import, transport, transfer and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, as well as the release of nuclear residues and toxic waste into the national territory. Ecuador, in addition to being part of the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, has ratified all of the main international instruments related to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the additional protocols on safeguards and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It is a matter of particular concern that the nuclear Powers have embarked upon the modernization of their nuclear weapons, delivery systems and platforms and that they have not reduced the role of nuclear weapons in their military doctrines, thereby violating both the spirit and the letter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Ecuador considers it regrettable that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force owing to a reluctance to ratify it on the part of countries listed in annex 2 of the Treaty.

The approval of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has established that these weapons are contrary to international law, as its provisions include procedures to enable nuclear-weapon States to eliminate those weapons, before or after their accession to the Treaty. Until the total elimination of such weapons is achieved, nuclear-weapon States must in all circumstances refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State by concluding a universal, legally binding instrument on effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances to be provided by nuclear-weapon States to all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of such weapons.

It is important to continue advocating in all forums for the elimination of these weapons; Ecuador therefore supports the annual celebration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[23 February 2018]

Georgia plays an important role in supporting the existing global nuclear security architecture through implementing its components at the national level, providing sufficient commitment to the international legal instruments and, among other actions, joining global initiatives in this field. Georgia has been a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material since 2007, has already ratified the 2005 amendment to the Convention and is therefore a full party to this international legal instrument of immense importance. Georgia has also been a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism since 2010.

Georgia recognizes the necessity to fully implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the prevention of non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and related materials. Considering that the resolution serves as a vital component of the international community's instrument in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Georgia welcomes the extension of the resolution mandate until 2021 and remains committed to its implementation. Georgia will also continue its cooperation with international organizations and regional bodies.

Georgia actively participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

With the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Georgia adopted its Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan 2015–2019. Georgia is currently elaborating a new regulation for the physical protection of nuclear material; in cooperation with the European Commission, acquired modernized equipment to conduct nuclear forensics investigations; adopted new legislation, such as the Procedure for Responding to the Illegal Trafficking of Nuclear and Radioactive Substances; and, in collaboration with the United States, established a Joint Maritime Operations Centre on the Black Sea coast to facilitate the inter-agency exchange of intelligence to address maritime threats, including nuclear smuggling.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[15 May 2018]

Lebanon wishes to make the following points:

Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction. It complies with the United Nations resolutions in that regard and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons.

It welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction. It is, however, concerned at the failure of the Israeli enemy to comply with international law. The Israel enemy maintains a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the States of the region and consequently to international peace and security.

It is essential for the Arab States to continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, because that is the only available option for coping with the dangers that the nuclear armaments of the Israeli enemy and its other weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security.

The international community should continue to demand that all States in the region, including the Israeli enemy, should sign treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.

It is essential to unify the Arab position, step up the role of the League of Arab States and take action to acquire the scientific knowledge and secure the equipment required to protect against weapons of mass destruction. It is also vital to continue efforts to expose the Israeli enemy as a State that does not heed the call for the development and dissemination of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies in all fields that serve sustainable development and to take into account the various needs of the Arab States.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[15 May 2018]

Each Member State must work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Since Madagascar has ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, it is under an obligation to implement it.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2018]

Mexico believes that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held on 26 September 2013 demonstrated the legitimate desire of a vast majority of Member States for the United Nations to address, without delay, an issue that was the subject of the first General Assembly resolution in 1946: the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mexico therefore welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017, an instrument which accorded with its well-known and extensive diplomatic efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and

non-proliferation; accordingly, Mexico deposited its instrument of ratification on 16 January 2018.

For Mexico, the negotiation and adoption of this Treaty is consistent with the obligation set out in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, thereby contributing to its implementation. Once in force, the prohibition will be only one element of the process towards the general and complete elimination of nuclear weapons which, in turn, will complement other processes that are of high priority for the non-proliferation and disarmament regime in the context of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In this regard, Mexico encourages those countries which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in order to achieve its early entry into force. Mexico will also continue to participate actively in the various forums in which the nuclear disarmament agenda is considered in order to promote complementary measures.

With regard to a comprehensive convention to achieve nuclear disarmament, Mexico considers that it should include the following elements:

- Prohibitions of nuclear weapons that ensure the achievement and irreversibility of nuclear disarmament;
- Prohibitions of the stockpiling and production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices;
- Establishment of a mechanism for the elimination of existing nuclear weapons, with clear timeframes;
- Dismantling or conversion of facilities producing fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices;
- Verification mechanism under the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- Institutional arrangements that support the goals and principles of the comprehensive convention.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[8 May 2018]

The Kingdom of Morocco remains deeply convinced of the relevance of the competent United Nations mechanisms in the area of disarmament and international security. The increased effectiveness of these mechanisms remains dependent on the political will of States and respect for the obligations and commitments undertaken.

Morocco considers that the achievement of a world free from nuclear weapons necessarily depends on the efficiency of the United Nations mechanisms responsible for disarmament, in particular the Conference on Disarmament which, since its establishment, has become a unique forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations and an important body within which States are able to put forward their positions.

The Kingdom of Morocco has signed and ratified all the multilateral instruments on weapons of mass destruction and remains committed to general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

Morocco continues to be prepared to consider, in a constructive spirit, draft multilateral instruments and all initiatives aimed at reinvigorating the United Nations disarmament mechanisms, particularly breaking the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament.

Morocco is convinced that, as long as nuclear weapons exist, there can be no true security or effective stability at the regional and international levels.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[9 May 2018]

At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 72/251, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

The Kingdom of the Netherlands herewith submits the view of the Government of the Netherlands on the issues covered by the resolution.

The Netherlands wishes to emphasize that it fully shares the ultimate goal of resolution 72/251, a world free of nuclear weapons. The Netherlands participated at the ministerial level in the high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, during which various perspectives on how to best achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world were discussed.

The Netherlands notes with regret that resolution 72/251 reflects only one particular viewpoint, while various other proposals made during the 26 September 2013 meeting were not reflected.

As stated in the explanation of vote that was read by the delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of a group of like-minded countries during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the resolution includes no clear references to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, while the Netherlands would have very much preferred a broader reference to the Treaty and an underlining of its pivotal importance to nuclear disarmament.

The Netherlands further regrets that, by focusing on one core element of the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the resolution does not do justice to the urgent attention that needs to be paid to the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work of the Conference and the other core issues. The Netherlands also believes that starting negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention without the participation of the States that possess nuclear weapons does not advance the overall goal of nuclear disarmament.

The Netherlands notes the postponement of the high-level meeting. At this point, no new date has been proposed. The Netherlands, in this context, reiterates that it feels that the importance of international efforts on nuclear disarmament is insufficiently emphasized by processes that are, in scope and intention, insufficiently clear and transparent. This will prevent key States from participating and is detrimental to the international trust that is fundamental for successful disarmament efforts. Instead, efforts should be focused on making progress in the context of the Treaty, with the second session of Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference having just concluded.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[15 May 2017]

We call upon all members of the international community to join as actively as possible in resolving current problems in the area of international security and stability. Among those problems are the untrammelled development of global antimissile defence systems, the development of non-nuclear, high-precision, strategic offensive weapons, problems with the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the prospect of offensive weapons being taken into outer space, and the increasing quantitative and qualitative imbalances in conventional weapons. The persistence of these problems destroys trust between States, weakens the disarmament architecture and continues to be a major obstacle to ensuring the effectiveness of disarmament efforts.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Ukraine is convinced that a disarmament and non-proliferation regime can be effectively strengthened through proper and timely implementation and faithful promotion of an international legal framework, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which serves as a main legally binding document in the sphere of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Despite being affected by Russian military aggression towards and occupation of Ukraine's territories, in violation of the key principles of the Treaty, as well as of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, Ukraine continues to regard the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and an essential tool for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament. Elaboration of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons or any additional similar instruments without the participation of nuclear States or other powerful States could not only harm international efforts aimed at enhancing existing international legal norms but also weaken the Treaty regime.

After the occupation by the Russian Federation of the integral parts of Ukraine — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions — Ukraine lost control over nuclear facilities and materials located in these territories.

Moreover, implementation of the ideas proclaimed in the statements of officials of the Russian Federation of its right to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine, namely, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, infringes on the non-nuclear status of Ukraine and endangers the regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Taking into account the above-mentioned issues, Ukraine calls on the international community and the United Nations to exert all possible efforts to maintain and strengthen the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Ukraine supports all legal mechanisms in effect to fulfil this purpose, inter alia, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission.